

## Hopes for Gulf peace raised and then dashed by conditional offer to withdraw from Kuwait

# Bush calls on Iraqis to oust Saddam

By PETER STOTHARD IN WASHINGTON AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

**HOPES** for an end to the Gulf war were raised and quickly dashed yesterday after Iraq offered for the first time to withdraw from Kuwait, but with a string of conditions attached.

President Bush denounced the statement from Iraq's ruling revolutionary command council as a cruel hoax. He challenged the Iraqis to oust Saddam Hussein.

John Major rejected the offer as a bogus sham. Kuwaiti leaders called it a big ploy, and Israel said it was a doomed attempt to head off a ground war and inevitable defeat. But the Soviet Union and Iran, who have been at the forefront of recent peace moves, welcomed the statement as a positive step. The UN Secretary-General, Javier Pérez de Cuellar, said it needed careful consideration.

People in Baghdad took to the streets and fired guns in the air in celebration of the end of the war yesterday morning as the radio announced the offer to comply with UN resolution 660. Shares rose and the oil price dipped. But the euphoria soon disappeared as coalition leaders studied the full text, decided that it contained no real initiative and declared that the bombing would continue.

Resolution 660 was the first of 12 passed after the invasion of Kuwait. It demands the unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces. Yesterday, Iraq said that "in order to achieve a dignified and acceptable political settlement" it had decided to accept the resolution, "including the clause related

### IRAQ'S WITHDRAWAL CONDITIONS

The key conditions laid down by Iraq for agreeing to withdraw from Kuwait are:

- A full ceasefire
- Abrogation of all United Nations resolutions concerning Iraq
- Israeli withdrawal from the Occupied Territories
- Security Council to guarantee all Iraq's historical rights on land and sea in their entirety (implying that Iraq will continue to claim Kuwait)
- Withdrawal of all Allied troops from the Gulf within one month of ceasefire
- Overthrow of Kuwait's ruling al-Sabah family
- Allies to pay the entire cost of rebuilding Iraq
- Cancellation of Iraq's \$30 billion debts
- Syria out of Lebanon

to Iraqi withdrawal". But in return, Iraq demanded an immediate ceasefire, the withdrawal of foreign troops from the region, an end to sanctions, and a role in the future government of Kuwait.

The statement repeated Iraq's insistence that Israel withdraw from the Occupied Territories, adding that if it failed to do so, it should face similar UN action to that taken against Iraq. Syria should also cease its involvement in the Lebanon. The allies should pay for the rebuilding of Iraq, and all other UN resolutions - including that declaring the annexation of Kuwait null and void - should be revoked.

The first news of the Iraqi offer caught the White House by surprise. There was an early sense that Saddam might have cracked under the crippling air attacks on his military machine and in the fear that a ground assault was imminent. Some officials feared what is known as the "nightmare scenario" in which Saddam would withdraw his troops keeping his own power intact.

Within hours, however, the White House spokesman, Martin Fitzwater, declared: "The more we look at it, the worse it gets."

Mr Bush said: "When I first heard that statement I must say I was happy that Saddam Hussein had seemed to realise that he must now withdraw unconditionally from Kuwait. Regrettably, the Iraq statement now appears to be a cruel hoax dashing the hopes of the people in Iraq and, indeed, around the world."

Mr Bush noted that the celebrations in the streets of Baghdad showed the people's desire to see the war ended. The way for that to happen was for Saddam to order his forces out of Kuwait, but he added: "There is another way for the bloodshed to stop. And that's for the Iraqi military and the Iraqi people to take matters into their own hands, to force Saddam Hussein the dictator to step aside."

In Saudi Arabia, preparations for a ground war intensified with new emphasis on the clearing of minefields. An American military spokesman in Riyadh said that a new weapon was being used: fuel-air explosive bombs that spray a fine mist of propane-like fuel that is ignited, creating a fireball that sucks up oxygen and incinerates everything

near by. Allied commanders hoped that the shift in the Iraqi attitude on withdrawal from Kuwait could be turned to their advantage by persuading Iraqi commanders that the death and destruction they were experiencing was for nothing.

Administration officials, however, feared that the offer might become a successful propaganda coup as the deaths of the civilians sheltering from American bombs in Amirya on Tuesday.

The timing of the proposal was also seen as significant, coming before the Iraqi foreign minister's mission to Moscow to see President Gorbachev on Monday. Moscow said yesterday that it was looking forward to "Iraqi Aziz's visit" with "impatience" and the Soviet foreign minister, Alexander Bessmertnykh, said the Iraqi proposals opened "a new chapter in the history of the conflict. This is an important beginning."

The initiative also came as the Iraqi deputy prime minister Saddam Husayni left for Tehran for his third visit in three weeks. The Iranian news agency described the offer as a step towards peace.

Senior UN officials met urgently to consider the Iraqi offer and were said to be taking it more seriously than the Americans' and Nasser al-Kidwa of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation said: "Anyone who does not see the real change does not want to see it."

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Bush denounced Iraqi peace offer as a hoax



No peace yet: a Palestinian girl negotiates two Israeli policemen in Jerusalem yesterday

## Heseltine opposes early poll tax move

By DOUGLAS BROOM  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine, the environment secretary, is fighting a cabinet battle to avoid bringing forward legislation to abolish the poll tax in the next general election.

Faced with pressures from fellow ministers to have a bill ready by October, Mr Heseltine has made clear that he fears that hurried legislation would risk producing "another botched job". The final decision on a replacement for the community charge and reforms to the structure of local government will be made by the prime minister, who is chairing the cabinet committee overseeing the poll tax review.

Senior cabinet members want to keep open the option of introducing legislation to abolish the poll tax in the autumn if the prime minister decides not to go to the country until next year. Mr Heseltine is urging cabinet colleagues to put their faith in tough new capping criteria and an expanded transitional relief scheme to hold down poll tax bills for the next two years.

In the meantime he has been told by the cabinet to produce outline proposals for the future of local government finance and structure by the end of March to form the basis of the Conservative manifesto for the May municipal elections. Sources close to the review said last night that Mr Heseltine was moving towards adopting the idea of a property

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## Inflation falls for third month

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

ANNUAL inflation slowed to 9 per cent in January as extended new-year sales depressed prices of clothes and household goods, and petrol became cheaper, according to the latest government figures.

The fall in the retail price index for the third consecutive month confirmed the picture painted by the government of steadily falling inflation. The defeat of inflation has been declared the government's prime policy objective.

In the City, the inflation figures aroused fresh hope of a further interest-rate cut, probably by half a percentage point, before the Budget on March 19. Some analysts believe Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, encouraged by the favourable response from financial markets to this week's half-point cut in the base rate to 13.5 per cent, could try to pare more off this week.

The retail price index (RPI) rose 0.2 per cent in January to 130.2, bringing the annual rate down to 9 per cent from 9.3 per cent in December. At its peak in September and October, it stood at 10.9 per cent. Mr Lamont was aware of yesterday's inflation figures before he announced the base rate cut on Wednesday after a barrage of demands for urgent action to prevent the recession deepening.

With further decreases in the petrol price likely this month, the RPI appears ready to fall still further before the big drop expected in April. The Treasury's official forecast is 5.5 per cent inflation in the final quarter of this year, but government and City forecasters now expect it to be even lower. Some analysts foresee it falling as low as 3.5 per cent, matching the level achieved by Britain's main

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Shoppers' scepticism, page 8  
Sterling firm, page 33  
Rate cut hopes, page 36

## Allied raids go on despite Baghdad offer

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN EASTERN SAUDI ARABIA

THE relentless air war against Iraq continued last night as American and other allied commanders received orders to make no change in offensive operations as a result of the conditional offer of an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

Less than an hour after the offer was announced on Baghdad radio, causing a short-lived wave of euphoria among Kuwaiti exiles and Saudi citizens alike, two F15 jets left the Dhahran air base to carry out another of the 2,400 sorties flown against Iraq in the 24 hours ending at 6.30pm last night.

As the planes screamed overhead, their burners shooting out licks of flame, a burly US military policeman manning a road block gave his own answer to President Saddam's offer. "That man is full of lies," the serviceman shouted, and then pointed to the sky. "There is our two-word answer to his attempt to fool us: 'air war'."

American scepticism on the ground was accompanied by uncompromising statements from the allied central command in Riyadh that there would be no relaxation in the blitz against Iraqi targets in Iraq and in occupied Kuwait.

"Until our mission is changed by the national command, we are going to execute our campaign to the letter," pledged Brigadier General Richard Neal, the US military spokesman, said.

In Western circles, the US hard line was seen as a move to keep up pressure on Iraq in order to force the dropping of conditions attached to the withdrawal offer. "I see this as the beginning of the end game, but it may be a long and bloody one," a senior European envoy said. "It is a sign that Saddam is weakening, and his opening bid for a way out."

Even before the announcement from Baghdad, some American commentators in Saudi Arabia had predicted that



Neal: no change in allied battle plan

the first news from Baghdad was received. This rapidly evaporated as the attached conditions, more numerous than mentioned previously, were noted.

It is now considered unlikely that an assault that may cost tens of thousands of lives will be launched immediately while the Iraqi offer is being considered.

The American response to the Iraqi offer contrasted strongly with initial euphoria shown by Saudis and Kuwaitis.

Among many Saudi citizens, there was bitter disappointment when it became clear that Iraq's offer was hedged with conditions that the coalition was soon to find unacceptable.

IN 1989,  
**TWENTY THREE MILLION**  
ROMANIANS GOT  
THE  
SAME CHRISTMAS  
PRESENT:  
**THE DEATH OF THE CEAUSESCUS.**



This month, the Ceausescus' last 4 days. From top: Ceausescu, his wife, getting rich in Hong Kong. And top Oscar nominee, Kevin Costner.

GQ. The men's magazine with an I.Q.  
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## Vexed judges bolt door on determined suitor

By JOE JOSEPH

EVEN the legal profession, not famous for turning down a fee, has tired of arguing for or against Thomas Mathew, whose seven-year tangle in the law courts came to an end yesterday when Sir Patrick Mayhew QC, the attorney general, finally had him declared a vexatious litigant, the legal term for a nuisance.

Mr Mathew, aged 45, who feels he has been dithered out of a fortune that should have come to him in his brother's will, will not be able to bring fresh proceedings, or continue existing ones, without the leave of the High Court. His battle has resulted in over 300 hearings before more than 50 High Court judges. Mr Mathew has filed negligence or criminal conspiracy

suits against 50 firms of solicitors, banks and estate agents. His brothers and mother have not been spared. The saga began when his older brother Theobald, a bachelor farmer and Lloyd's underwriter, died in 1983. Mr Mathew was a beneficiary in his will, but has not seen a penny of the estate, which he says was worth more than £5 million. Lawyers have swallowed whatever money there might have been left after inheritance taxes. Mr Mathew claims three unlawfully appointed solicitors squandered £3.8 million after improperly administering the estate, selling his brother's farm and his harvested potato crop below market value, and failing to locate bank accounts and stock deeds. No sooner had Lord Justice

Farquharson and Mr Justice Millett informed Mr Mathew yesterday that he had effectively become a legal pariah than Mr Mathew announced he would appeal. The decision did not seem to come as a surprise. Reading a prepared statement, he said: "The real loser in this case is the law... Legally it was very simple. They stole the money. I am now ruined."

How complex? It took the judges from 10am to 11.40am yesterday to give the court just a brief summary of what Mr Mathew had been up to in the courts. It was a summary punctuated with phrases such as "this action was unnecessary and vexatious", "it is difficult to imagine a more unreasonable application or one with less chance of success", "the whole exercise was unnecessary and wasteful".



Mathew: seven-year court battle runs out of time

The case may well continue.

### TODAY

#### Child's play for adults



Keeping the children occupied at half term can be a full time job. Today *The Times* presents the best of entertainment. PAGE 17

#### Round five, for some

Arsenal and Leeds attempt to settle their fourth round differences today but the fifth round of the FA Cup is the main weekend focus. PAGE 25

#### Death in a Sydney suburb

The bizarre story of a psychiatric treatment programme that killed 24 people. SATURDAY REVIEW

#### Please don't try this at home

Faced with the knowledge that some children put sandwiches in video recorders, Lynne Truss wonders if the programmes are necessarily more interesting. PAGE 21

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# Surprise Baghdad communiqué of conditional compliance with United Nations



Faces of hope: American soldiers in Germany tie yellow ribbons to a tree, left, on hearing Iraq may quit Kuwait, and members of the exiled Kuwaiti government celebrate in Saudi Arabia.

## THE IRAQI OFFER

THE text of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council statement, monitored by the BBC at Caversham:

Oh dear Iraqis, Oh honest Arabs, Oh Muslims who truly believe in Islam, Oh honest and free men of the world... In order to rob the evil US-Zionist-Atlantic alliance of the opportunity to achieve their premeditated goals: and in appreciation of the Soviet initiative conveyed by the envoy of the Soviet leadership: and in compliance with the principles outlined in leader President Saddam Hussein's initiative on August 12, 1990, the Revolutionary Command Council has decided to declare:

First: Iraq's readiness to deal with security council resolution number 660 of 1990, with the aim of reaching an honourable and acceptable political solution, including withdrawal. The first step that is required to be implemented as a pledge by Iraq regarding withdrawal will be linked to the following:

A A total and comprehensive ceasefire...

B For the security council to decide to abolish from the outset resolutions 661, 662, 664, 665, 666, 667, 669, 670, 674, 677, and 678 and all the effects resulting from all of them, and to abolish all resolutions and measures of boycott and embargo, as well as the other negative resolutions and measures that were adopted by certain countries against Iraq... before August 2, 1990, which were the real reasons for the Gulf crisis... Iraq should not incur any negative effects for any reason.

C For the United States and the other countries participating in the aggression, and all the countries that sent their forces from the region to withdraw all the forces, weapons and equipment which they have brought to the Middle East region before and after August 2, 1990... including the weapons and equipment that certain countries provided to Israel under the pretext of the Gulf crisis, provided that these forces, weapons and equipment are withdrawn during a period not exceeding one month from the date of the ceasefire.

D Israel must withdraw from Palestine and the Arab territories it is occupying in the Golan and southern Lebanon, in implementation of the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly resolutions. In the case that Israel fails to do this, the UN Security Council should then enforce against Israel the same resolutions it passed against Iraq.

E Iraq's historical rights on land and at sea should be guaranteed in full in any peaceful solution.

F The political arrangement to be agreed upon should proceed from the people's will and in accordance with a genuine democratic practice, and not on the basis of the rights acquired by the al-Sabah family. Accordingly, the nationalist and Islamic forces should primarily participate in the political arrangement to be agreed upon.

Second: the countries which have participated in the aggression and in financing the aggression undertake to reconstruct what the aggression has destroyed in Iraq in accordance with the best specifications with regard to all the enterprises and installations which were targeted by the aggression and at their expense. Iraq should not incur any financial expenses in this regard.

Third: all the debts of Iraq and countries of the region - which were harmed by the aggression and which did not take part in the aggression, either directly or indirectly - to the Gulf countries and to the foreign countries which took part in the aggression should be written off...

Fourth: the Gulf states, including Iran, should be given the task of freely drawing up security arrangements in the region and of organising relations among them without any foreign interference.

Fifth: to declare the Arabian Gulf region a zone free of foreign military bases and from any form of foreign military presence. Everybody must undertake to observe this.

This is our argument, which we declare before the world, clear and shining against the traitors and their imperialist masters...

## RESOLUTION 660

UN Security Council resolution 660, calling for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops, which was passed on August 2, said:

The security council, alarmed by the invasion of Kuwait on August 2, 1990, by the military forces of Iraq, determining that there exists a breach of international peace and security as regards the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, acting under articles 39 and 40 of the Charter of the United Nations:

1. Condemns the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait;
2. Demands that Iraq withdraw immediately and unconditionally all its forces to the positions in which they were located on August 1, 1990;
3. Calls upon Iraq and Kuwait to begin immediately intensive negotiations for the resolution of their differences and supports all efforts in this regard, and especially those of the Arab League;
4. Decides to meet again as necessary to consider further steps to ensure compliance with this resolution.

## MOSCOW

# Cautious welcome tempered by dispute at senior level

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

MOSCOW responded with cautious optimism to signs of a possible end to the war, but it was an optimism tempered by evidence of division within the establishment and by signs that the superpower alliance, which has weathered four weeks of war, might yet founder on arrangements for peace.

The most authoritative comment came from President Gorbachev's chief spokesman, Vitali Ignatenko, who said that the Soviet leader was satisfied and hopeful after learning that Iraq might be ready to withdraw its troops from Kuwait. "The positive news from Iraq has been received with satisfaction and hope in Moscow," he said. He added that the Soviet leadership was waiting with impatience for the arrival of Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, tomorrow.

Mr Aziz's visit will continue a round of hectic diplomacy in Moscow which began with the visit of the French foreign minister on Tuesday, continued with the Kuwaiti foreign minister on Thursday and the Iranian foreign minister, whose visit began yesterday. A three-member delegation from the European Community, comprising the Irish, Dutch and Italian foreign ministers, is expected in Moscow today.

The hopeful response from President Gorbachev's office contrasted with a straight refusal to comment from the Soviet foreign ministry. Vitali Churkin, the ministry's spokesman, said before the release of Mr Ignatenko's statement that he was not authorised to speak for the Soviet leadership and that he wanted to see more details of Iraq's statement before commenting.

The foreign ministry has throughout the Gulf confrontation appeared less optimistic than the president's office about the prospects of achieving an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. It has also given a distinctly cool reception to the diplomatic efforts of Yevgeni Primakov, Mr Gorbachev's special envoy who returned from his third visit to Baghdad earlier this week speaking of possible "rays of light" in his talks with President Saddam Hussein. Any attempt to elicit foreign ministry clarification of this was met with the instruction to contact Mr Primakov, who is now in Japan, or the president's spokesman.

Although he has conducted talks on the Gulf war with all the visiting foreign ministers, Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, the new Soviet foreign minister, and foreign ministry officials seem to have taken a backseat since the outbreak of war. The political running has been made by Mr Gorbachev and Mr Primakov. Judging by defensive remarks made by foreign ministry officials,

the ministry is being blamed in some quarters for being too supportive of the American position in the Gulf and for not having done enough to prevent the war. On Thursday Mr Churkin insisted, not for the first time, that Soviet diplomacy had done everything it could to avert the war, but that Saddam had been immovable.

No Soviet official has revealed details of Moscow's role in persuading the Iraqi leadership at least to mention the possibility of withdrawal, but Mr Primakov said in Japan that Moscow had drafted the outline of a possible settlement. He insisted that it required the complete withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait, in line with UN Security Council resolution 660, but said the main points of the plan should for the moment remain secret.

From the conditions set by Iraq, it is none the less possible to speculate that Moscow was responsible for introducing the financial elements, which are the only new elements. A scenario can be envisaged where the territorial requirements, the withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Arab territories and the withdrawal of Syria from Lebanon, are referred to a subsequent international conference on the Middle East, where the withdrawal of foreign troops from the Gulf is agreed on a stage-by-stage basis, and where the financial guarantees of compensation become the key to the start of an Iraqi withdrawal.

# UN peace troops at the ready

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations has drawn up contingency plans to dispatch peacekeeping troops to Kuwait within hours in the event of an Iraqi withdrawal. "We have always been working in the sense of preparing for the observation of a withdrawal of Iraqi forces," Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN secretary-general, said in his first public comment on the Iraqi announcement.

The five Nordic countries - Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden - and Canada have offered to send military observers to the Gulf at short notice to monitor an Iraqi withdrawal. UN sources said yesterday the organisation would have no difficulty in sending a small contingent within 24 to 48 hours, probably from the Nordic countries. Canada had probably disqualified itself from providing peacekeepers by participating in the allied war campaign.

Diplomats said the initial detachment of military observers would then be supplemented by a

fuller peacekeeping contingent to Kuwait, possibly numbering about 6,000. United Nations sources said the second wave could follow in several days. Peacekeeping troops currently in Cyprus and Lebanon may be temporarily redeployed to the Gulf as a stopgap measure until a full UN force can be mustered.

The dispatch of a peacekeeping contingent is the first of many tasks likely to fall to the United Nations in the event of an Iraqi withdrawal. At their meeting on January 13 Señor Pérez de Cuéllar presented President Saddam Hussein with ideas contained in a UN working paper on the course of events if Iraq complied with UN resolutions.

Reiterating what President Mitterrand of France told the UN General Assembly in September, Señor Pérez de Cuéllar said that "everything would be possible". He emphasised that the UN would ensure that Iraq would not be threatened after a withdrawal.

President Bush had personally

pledged that American forces would not attack Iraq if it withdrew to its pre-invasion positions, and had said that the United States did not intend to maintain ground forces in the area after the war, Señor Pérez de Cuéllar reported. The United States was also committed to easing UN economic sanctions against Iraq, the UN secretary-general had told Saddam.

The United Nations would send "forces from acceptable states to assist in the return to the pre-August situation and in safeguarding the security of Iraq's borders," he said. After that, regional security arrangements had to be drawn up, as called for in security council resolution 598 ending the Iran-Iraq war.

Señor Pérez de Cuéllar suggested that regional arrangements could include the removal of all weapons of mass destruction, including those belonging to Israel.

Anthony Parsons, page 12

# Missing TV men held in Baghdad

London - Four American television journalists who went missing on the Saudi-Kuwaiti border four days after the Gulf war began are reported to be alive and well in Baghdad, their fate to be decided personally by Saddam Hussein (writes Melinda Winstock, Media Correspondent).

The Iraqi military has held the four men from the American network CBS in Baghdad for two weeks, CNN reported yesterday. The four, including the CBS London bureau chief Peter Hoff and the Middle East correspondent Bob Simon, were picked up by an Iraqi military patrol in a remote part of the border area.

Peter Arnett, CNN's correspondent in Baghdad, reported that "reliable sources" had told him that the men "are still being investigated by the Iraqi intelligence service to determine the full circumstances of their capture".

Arnett reported: "Apparently there are three categories they can fall under: innocents who could be released, prisoners of war or spies. I am told that President Saddam Hussein will personally determine the outcome of the cases."

## Lost crew named

Gulf - Flight Lieutenant Rupert Clark, aged 31, who captured the spirit of the first RAF bombing raid on Baghdad with the comment "It ran on rails", was named as one of the two air crew missing when a Tornado GR1 was lost on Thursday (Lia Jenkins writes). Flight Lieutenant Steve Hicks, the navigator, aged 26, is also missing.

## Justifiable war

London - The aim of a morally justifiable war is not to kill people but to render the enemy's military machine harmless, the Rt Rev Richard Harries, the Bishop of Oxford, said on Radio 4 yesterday. Sensitivity about targeting was not only proper but essential to people's existence as moral beings.

Churches under strain, page 12

## Baath offices hit

London - Low-flying allied aircraft blasted the headquarters of Iraq's ruling Baath party in a pre-dawn attack. The building in the city centre, which was empty, suffered massive damage, witnesses said. Baghdad civil defence said 306 bodies had been retrieved by noon from the shelter bombed early on Wednesday. (AP)

## Protest by CND

London - The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament will march to the American air force base at Fairford in Gloucestershire which is being used by B52 bombers tomorrow. (Michael J. Howell writes). Bruce Kent, the chairman of CND, will lead a rally attacking the use of Fairford as a frontline base for the Gulf conflict and warning of terrorist retaliation.

## Death squad claim

London - Iraqi death squads have been killing and torturing trade unionists in Kuwait in an attempt to eradicate the labour movement. Hayef Issam el-Ajami, the leader of the Kuwaiti trade union federation, alleged in a letter to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions in Brussels, yesterday.

## Sapper buried

Hundreds of mourners in Rochdale, Greater Manchester, attended the first military funeral of a British soldier killed in the Gulf. Sapper Alan Royle of the Royal Engineers, aged 25, died in an accident involving his own weapon.

Reporting The Times continues: Alan Royle, 25, of Rochdale, Greater Manchester, died on 10 February 1991 while on duty with the Royal Engineers in the Gulf. He was killed by a live round fired from a mortar. He was the first British soldier to be killed in the Gulf since the start of the war. His funeral was held at St. Peter's Church in Rochdale. He is survived by his wife and two children.

# Nightmare scenario reappears to plague the coalition

THE first sign of a white flag was raised by Iraq yesterday, 30 days after the start of the allied air campaign and 199 days since the invasion of Kuwait. If the withdrawal offer is genuine, the allies face the possibility of the "nightmare scenario" they feared.

Although a third of the Iraqi "battle-winning" equipment in Kuwait has been destroyed and President Saddam Hussein's nuclear and chemical weapons production capability has been put back at least five years, Iraq's vast war-fighting machine has only been reduced, not eliminated.

There is no evidence yet that the statement is anything more than a diplomatic ploy to stop the allies from mounting a land offensive. It must have been clear to Saddam and his advisers that some form of allied ground

attack, if not a full-scale offensive, was imminent.

Aware that his ground forces had suffered high attrition in the past ten days of bombing, Saddam would have realised that a humiliating defeat was possible. The offer of withdrawal would be a way gain enough time to assess his next move.

He must also hope that the offer will stop the bombing. In that he has failed, because the Pentagon immediately announced that the campaign would continue. Any decision to halt or reduce the bombing would be a political one. But the military advice should be to maintain the momentum, if not increase it, to provide even more incentive to Saddam to withdraw unconditionally.

During the next few days, the bombing should focus solely on

This latest example of Saddam's brinkmanship raises the spectre of some of his war machine surviving to fight again, writes Michael Evans

the Iraqi ground forces in Kuwait. For if a ceasefire were to be agreed, every additional tank, artillery piece and armoured personnel carrier destroyed would help to bring down Saddam's war machine to more acceptable proportions.

The statement from the Revolutionary Command Council indicates a shift in thinking, even if it is only the latest example of Saddam's brinkmanship. The Iraqi leader's ability to surprise has been one of the trademarks of this conflict. He has always wanted to divide the allies, and there could hardly be a better way than to announce an

intention to withdraw. The Arab coalition would be under greater pressure than their Western partners to consider a ceasefire.

If Saddam were defeated in a land battle, the coalition, under the aegis of the United Nations, could have insisted on Iraqi troops leaving Kuwait without their heavy weapons, and possibly without their rifles. But a unilateral withdrawal would give Saddam enough bargaining power to keep his armour and weapons, and to remain in charge of a damaged but still potent military capability.

However, the nightmare scenario would not be as bad now as

it seemed before January 17, when the allied air campaign began. If withdrawal had been announced before war had started, Saddam's military power would have been intact and the allied military presence rendered toothless.

Now, after 30 days of bombing, the allies have made such inroads into Saddam's war machine and have destroyed or damaged so much of Iraq's strategic infrastructure that, even if he were to survive as leader, his ability to threaten the region has been reduced enough to satisfy the coalition that the Iraqi dictator's territorial ambitions have been put back several years, if not forever.

That is not to say his political ambitions have been curbed. For by withdrawing now, after allowing his troops and his people to

suffer 30 days of bombing on a scale that has eclipsed even allied air raids in the second world war, Saddam's reputation in the Arab world would soar. President Mubarak of Egypt, on the other hand, might be judged in Arab eyes as the leader who supported a campaign that led to the death of thousands of Arab civilians.

If the war were to end today, it would be the first time in history that air power had won the day. All the armed services would have played a part in victory. By their very presence, the allied armoured divisions, which have not yet fired a shot in anger, the airborne divisions which have not crossed enemy lines, and the amphibious forces which have stayed afloat on 27 assault ships in the Gulf, have helped to keep the Iraqi troops trapped in their bunkers.

20/02/91 15:00



## resolutions prompts wave of jubilation and expectation around the world



In Amman, Jordanians gather in the street to listen to the news on a salesman's radio, left, while a family in Tel Aviv rejoices on hearing that the end of the Gulf war could well be in sight

### JORDAN

## Fear of capitulation haunts Saddam's Palestinian backers

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN AMMAN

NEWS of Iraq's offer to withdraw from Kuwait yesterday clearly stunned many Palestinians in Jordan, most of whom had enthusiastically supported Iraq in the month-long conflict and particularly, hailed Baghdad's bombardment of Israel with Scud missiles.

Although Jordan officially welcomed Iraq's offer, privately Jordanians and Palestinians appeared concerned that the announcement could be a prelude to capitulation by Baghdad.

"Generally, Palestinians and Jordanians are in a state of shock because in reality the idea that he (President Saddam Hussein) has accepted to withdraw was something none of us ever expected," said

Nasser Tahboub, the director of the Institute of Advanced Policy Studies in Amman.

His view was confirmed in several interviews with young Palestinians who refused to concede that Iraq may have taken the decision to stop the war because it no longer had the strength or the will to continue the fight.

Although one of the preconditions to the Iraqi pull-out is the parallel withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied territories, there is a growing suspicion that this may be only a face-saving device to disguise the fact that Saddam is about to concede defeat.

In particular, it is feared that Saddam's offer, whether genuine or not, will mean that

Iraqi troops in Kuwait will be seriously demoralised if the allies pursue the war and the Iraqi forces are ordered to defend a country their leader has already agreed to abandon.

Ironically, Iraq's announcement coincided with widespread demonstrations throughout the Jordanian capital in support of Saddam as thousands of worshippers at Friday prayers streamed out of the city's mosques in angry demonstrations.

Riot police sealed off roads leading to the American embassy after one group of young protesters threatened to burn down the mission, while others harangued Jordanian parliamentarians demanding that the population be issued with firm instructions to defend the country against Iraq and the West.

One of the biggest fears in an Iraqi defeat could well be the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, which has been Baghdad's strongest ally over the past six months, but which stands to lose most in the post-war negotiations for a regional security plan for the Middle East.

While King Hussein of Jordan is considered indispensable for any future talks, because of his country's strategic location next to Israel, and his large Palestinian population, Western diplomats said that Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, would have a much more difficult task in reasserting his position as the main representative of the Palestinian people.

Arafat has played his role very badly, said one Western source. "He is now starved of funds from the Gulf states and as a result his influence has dropped in the occupied territories. He no longer has the power to influence decisions concerning the Palestinian people. His credibility has taken a hell of a beating."

Ibrahim Ezzeddin, the Jordanian minister of information, welcomed Iraq's initiative. "We call on all the countries, which are part of the war, to really be positive about the offer and respond in a positive manner. The most important aspect is the acceptance of UN security council resolution 660 and the mention of the withdrawal from Kuwait," he said, emphasising that the allies should call a ceasefire and discuss the Iraqi demands.

Israhel Ezzeddin, the Jordanian minister of information, welcomed Iraq's initiative. "We call on all the countries, which are part of the war, to really be positive about the offer and respond in a positive manner. The most important aspect is the acceptance of UN security council resolution 660 and the mention of the withdrawal from Kuwait," he said, emphasising that the allies should call a ceasefire and discuss the Iraqi demands.

Euphoric five minutes, page 12

### EUROPE

## Allies sceptical of Iraqi peace proposal

By MICHAEL BENYON  
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN and its Western partners expressed deep scepticism yesterday over the offer by President Saddam Hussein to withdraw from Kuwait, suggesting it was an insincere propaganda move.

The Foreign Office yesterday was studying the text of the broadcast, but said it appeared that "unacceptable conditions" were being applied. There was a flurry of diplomatic consultations between the allies, but general agreement that military decisions must not be postponed by vague promises.

European leaders welcomed Saddam's willingness for the first time to discuss the principle of withdrawal. But they said his offer did not meet the United Nations conditions and called for evidence of a withdrawal.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said a "mere verbal indication" that he might do something was not a case for distorting the military operation of freeing Kuwait. Saddam had to give "irreversible, decisive proof that this is happening."

President Mitterrand of France said the proposal was unacceptable as it stood. Germany also said it did not meet the United Nations conditions for withdrawal. And other allied foreign ministers, such as Mark Eyskens of Belgium, noted that Saddam had broken agreements before and this time had to present solid proof of his goodwill.

Saddam's statement also appears to back up the recent hints in Moscow that Yevgeny Primakov, the Kremlin's special envoy, had found "rays of hope" during his Baghdad visit. The Western allies are keen to find out from Moscow how much substance there was in those talks. They will urge Moscow not to let Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, use his visit this weekend to weaken Soviet support for the allies. But Western analysts said it was likely that if Iraq was ready to signal a willingness for peace, it would try to use the Soviet Union as a conduit, rather than any Western country or other member of the coalition.

The troika of European Community foreign ministers, representing the present, past and future EC presidencies, led by Jacques Poos of Luxembourg, arrives in Moscow.



Hurd: ground war is "inevitable"

today to discuss Soviet peace moves. The ministers, who will hold talks with Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, the Soviet foreign minister, were to have met him in Spain on Thursday, but their visit was brought forward at the Soviet Union's suggestion. Their visit comes hard on the heels of that by Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian foreign minister.

The exiled government is negotiating with Western companies to send engineers and huge stocks of material to eastern Saudi Arabia, ready to begin the reconstruction operations, estimated by some Kuwaiti experts to cost at least \$50 billion (£25 billion).

British companies may win many of the multi-million dollar contracts. Suleiman Mutawa, Kuwaiti minister of

### KUWAIT

## Army of firms readied for work

By MICHAEL BENYON

THE exiled Kuwaiti government is preparing a vast army of emergency contractors ready to sweep into the country and begin reconstruction the moment the Iraqi forces have left and military clearing-up operations have been completed.

But it will never again rely on foreign workers to run the country. The thousands of Palestinians, Indians and others who comprised almost 70 per cent of the prewar population will not be allowed back, and sensitive posts will never be given to non-Kuwaitis. In future, a Kuwaiti minister said yesterday, Kuwaitis will have to renounce their former luxurious lifestyle and do the hard work themselves.

No contracts have yet been awarded, and the Kuwaiti government is seeking bids from other American and European firms. They will be decided on their competitiveness and whether the firms already have comparable installations in Kuwait. But Mr Mutawa said contracts would probably be awarded to firms from countries that had borne the brunt of the fighting.

planning, held talks on Thursday with Peter Lilley, British trade secretary, and yesterday prolonged his stay in London because talks with representatives of leading British industries had gone so well.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, last week introduced the eight-man team to the emir and prime minister of Kuwait in Saudi Arabia. Their talks went so well that Mr Mutawa broke his journey to address a human rights conference in Geneva and pursue what he called "follow-up" discussions here. He and ministers for health, education, water, power and food are studying British proposals for the planned reconstruction.

No contracts have yet been awarded, and the Kuwaiti government is seeking bids from other American and European firms. They will be decided on their competitiveness and whether the firms already have comparable installations in Kuwait. But Mr Mutawa said contracts would probably be awarded to firms from countries that had borne the brunt of the fighting.

### THE SUNDAY TIMES

## The royals debate

The "decadent" nearly royals — as The Sunday Times leader described Viscount Althorp and Lord Linley — symbolise the underlying malaise at the heart of monarchy. Technically, as the Palace wearily explained, Viscount Althorp, whose marital problems displaced the Gulf from the front pages, and Lord Linley, currently enjoying a holiday in the Caribbean, do not receive money from the Civil List. However, the public have rumoured the game. They are tired of the way these pseudo royals are happy to jump on and off the royal gravy train without ever buying the ticket of duty that comes with a first class seat.

Andrew Morton, in The Sunday Times tomorrow.

### ISRAEL

## Officials dismiss offer as doomed

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL yesterday dismissed Iraq's offer to withdraw from Kuwait as a doomed attempt to stop the imminent ground war and so avoid inevitable defeat. Senior Israeli officials said Baghdad was merely repeating its long-standing position and that linkage between Kuwait and Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip remained unacceptable.

Beneath the Israeli scorn, however, was an undercurrent of concern that the world, weary of the Gulf war, might accept Iraq's announcement as the beginning of a process which could ultimately lead to a comprehensive Middle East settlement in which pressure would be exerted on Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories. Since the conflict began last August, Israel's "nightmare scenario" has been that President Saddam Hussein would suffer military defeat but emerge as an Arab political hero, his military battered but ready to rebuild and fight again.

Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, told the BBC yesterday that there could be no peace or stability in the Middle East until Saddam was overthrown and his military machine was destroyed. The Israeli plan for postwar

negotiations assumes a defeated Iraq and with it a defeated Palestinian Liberation Organisation, which supports Saddam. Such a defeat, Israel believes, would make it possible to exclude the PLO from any peace process.

"Palestinians in the occupied territories welcomed Baghdad's announcement, seeing it as a glimmer of hope. Daoud Kuttab, a Palestinian journalist, accused the West of double standards in insisting on the unconditional implementation of United Nations resolutions relating to Kuwait without at the same time insisting on the fulfillment of resolution 242 on the Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza."

But Eliyahu Ben-Elissar, the chairman of the parliamentary foreign affairs and defence committee, dismissed Iraq's offer. "As far as we are concerned, nothing has changed, because the reality of the Middle East has not changed. This is just another move by Saddam, a sort of gimmick, one of those exercises he engages in from time to time."

Israel remains braced for Iraq's long-threatened chemical weapons attack if the ground war gets under way and if Saddam believes defeat has become inevitable.

### ALLIED FORCES

## British fleet told to stay vigilant

FROM JAMIE DEITMER ONBOARD HMS LONDON

SENIOR naval officers in the 26-ship British naval fleet in the Gulf cautioned their men against euphoria over the Iraqi offer and told them they must maintain their vigilance. Within 30 minutes of the news of the Iraqi offer reaching the fleet, the warning was driven home by the sighting of a mine within 100 yards of HMS Brave, a Type 22 frigate. The reaction to the news on the ships was mixed. On HMS London, the Royal Navy's flagship in the Gulf, there was a "confusion" of emotions. Some heard of the Iraqi offer from a BBC World Service bulletin at 5pm local time (12pm GMT). The news went round rapidly, circulated by excited officers and ratings.

Many felt relief, others a sense of anti-climax. Some were disbelieving.

Captain Iain Henderson, commanding officer of the London, quickly took to the public address system to warn his crew against letting their guard down. Initially, he read out a message from the commander-in-chief of the fleet, Admiral Sir Jock Slater, informing ships in the Gulf of the Baghdad radio report.

"Now clearly that is stunningly good news," said Captain Henderson. "But, and it is a very big but indeed, nothing has changed at this very moment. Brave three minutes ago had a mine pass 100 yards away from her; we could have the same. And if we suddenly

get filled with euphoria, we might unfortunately come to grief."

He added: "Until such time as we are withdrawn from a dangerous area, the game is on. It behoves all of us to be still, well and truly ready for anything. Saddam Hussein is a slippery eel, let's make no mistake about it. Previously, we thought perhaps he was going to withdraw from Kuwait. He didn't."

"Although what I read cut to you is potentially excellent news, at the moment it has no real substance, nobody has actually withdrawn from Kuwait. So therefore, without wishing to be dull or gloomy, I want you all to concentrate on the job in hand. It is my duty

to get you all home safely to your families. It would be utterly tragic if we let our guard down now and thought we had entered peace and we go and let ourselves down and people get killed and we go home feeling absolutely dreadful."

London's crew listened in total silence to the captain's address. Only those men on the bridge, and in the operations and communications offices, and the mine look-outs continued their tasks. The sobering message had an effect.

But then humour took over. "Damn," said Royal Marine Captain Gordon Mackenzie-Philips. "No chance of that VC now."

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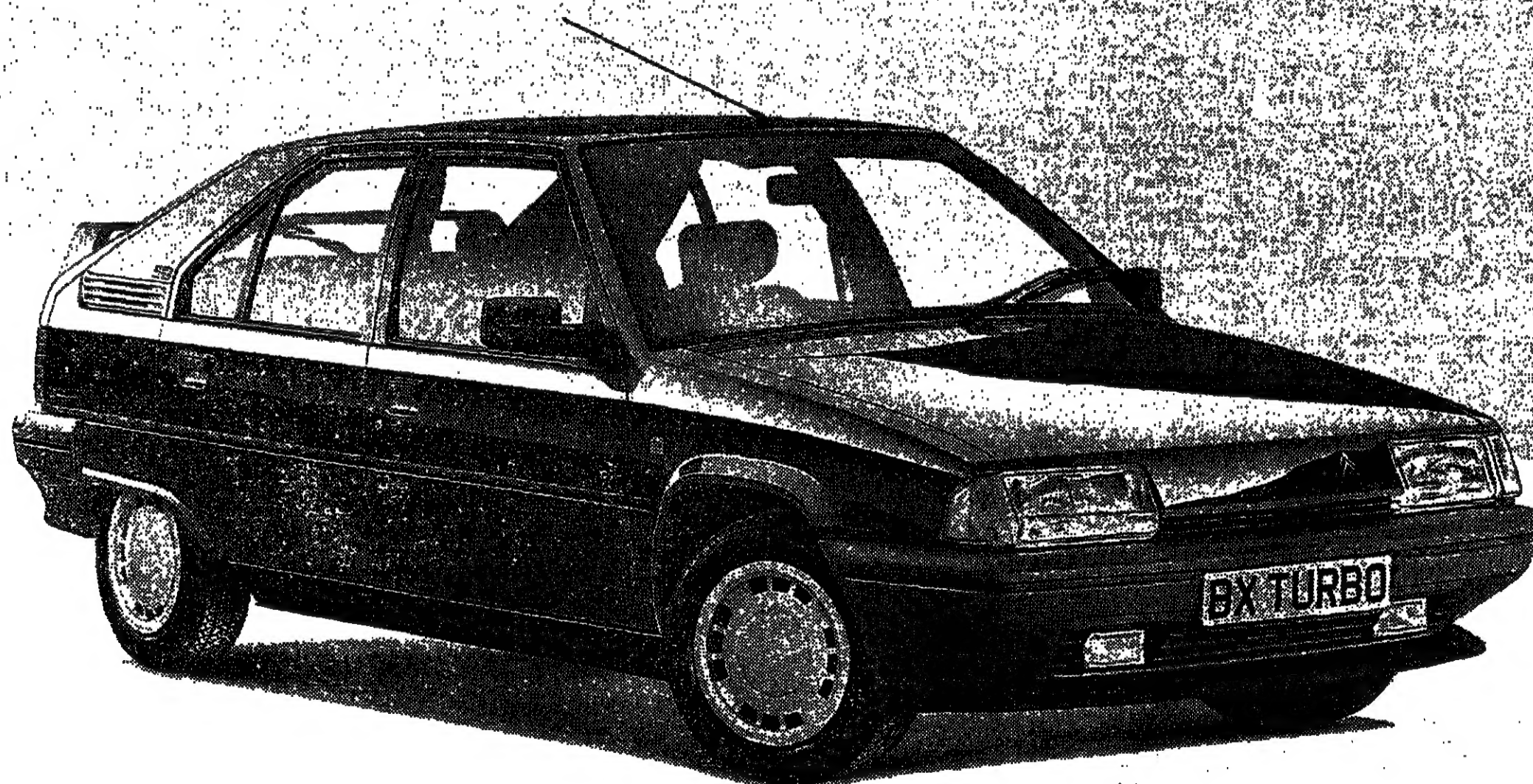
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# Supplies, not troops, should be target of allied jets in Kuwait

MANY are now persuaded that Saddam Hussein is mad as well as bad, yet his strategy has been perfectly coherent. To emulate the successful models before him, Nasser, Sadat and Assad, all of whom started wars, suffered horrendous defeats and yet easily remained in power, Saddam need only kill appreciable numbers of Americans and survive physically.

So long as he refuses to withdraw from Kuwait voluntarily — even if his troops are forced out — he will retain the heroic reputation he has established by his stalwart resistance to American threats and American firepower, and by his Scud attacks on Israel.

A Western ruler who invested vast resources in missiles so ineffectual that they have killed fewer Israelis than one Palestinian with a knife would be submerged in ridicule. And a Western ruler who caused tens of

thousands of his soldiers to die in hopeless combat of his own choosing would at best be hounded out of office.

In fact, Arab politics obeys exactly the same logic of costs and benefits. Because of the gap between supremacist self-image (Arab nationalism promises great power, not more independence) and the realities of military weakness, Arabs permanently feel humiliated. An Arab ruler who can fight Israel and kill Americans satisfies the greatest of needs by assuaging the accumulated humiliations of recent decades.

That being the only relevant political context, Saddam Hussein's conduct of the war has been very logical. Knowing that his air force was outmatched, he was content to leave it mostly inactive until its shelters were penetrated and destroyed. At that point, the remaining aircraft were sent off to Iran. Knowing

Even before Iraq's offer, Saddam was pursuing a more logical strategy than the allies, who are bombing the wrong sort of target, argues Edward Luttwak

that he had no navy to speak of, Saddam did not rely on it either. Finally, he was clearly disabused of any illusions about his ground forces as well. For all its thousands of tanks, the Iraqi army could never mount fast armoured offensives in the Israeli style even against Iran's ragged troops, let alone opponents with decisively strong air power. It lacks the fluid direction that only strong-willed officers can provide — the very type of officer who can best stage a coup, and which the regime has been careful to weed out. Iraq's only real military strength is the defensive potential of its ground forces, and Saddam therefore had no choice but to

wait until the Americans attacked the fortified positions of his troops. True, an American ground offensive would certainly outmanoeuvre and defeat the Iraqi armies, killing tens of thousands of Iraqi troops, but Americans would also be killed — and Saddam could prosper politically after the inevitable defeat. It may seem that American strategy has been equally coherent. Certainly, the US has circumvented Iraq's only real strength — its ability to defend ground with minefields, entrenched infantry and artillery — by waging war only from the air. Yet we now hear that the ground

offensive is to begin next week, or before the end of February. Has the bombing campaign failed? The answer is both yes and no.

The air offensive quickly achieved its first aim, which was necessary to achieve all others: the suppression of Iraqi air defences. The strategic bombardment of Iraq's military infrastructure was equally successful. But when it came to dealing with Iraq's army in and near Kuwait, it was decided to bomb Iraqi forces to facilitate a ground offensive, instead of bombing the flow of supplies to make a ground offensive unnecessary.

The essence of any air strategy is the selection of targets, and it seems that the very structure of the US Central Command, organised many years ago to cope with a Soviet land invasion, has distorted the bombing campaign. The US has been waging an air war under the command of an army officer, General Norman

Schwarzkopf, whose deputy is also an army officer, and who reports to the president through Colin Powell, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, also an army officer.

It will be recalled that Iraq's Republican Guard has been bombed since the first night of the war. The reason for this great emphasis was (and is) that only its forces could seriously resist the Rommel-style offensive of deep penetration desired by General Schwarzkopf's army planners.

Technically, that is not an efficient way of using air power. Ground forces equipped with armoured vehicles, or dug-in, are notoriously resistant to bombardment (remember Cassino). That is why no more than 20 per cent of Iraqi tanks have been destroyed after three weeks of bombing, and an even smaller proportion of Iraq's far more dangerous artillery. By contrast,

the rail and motorway bridges over which the Iraqis sent supplies to their main depots around Basra were easily cut once they were belatedly attacked in the second week of the war. More important still, the vast traffic of lorries that daily brings food and water to the Iraqi troops in Kuwait could still be attacked much more profitably than those forces themselves.

Moving lorries are far more easily seen than camouflaged armoured vehicles or dug-in troops. Half a million troops in a barren desert cannot live off the land as in Vietnam, nor can they be kept alive by a few camel trains in the night. If allied air power were used not as a species of long-range artillery, but to hunt for supply trucks, the Iraqi troops in Kuwait would soon enough have to be withdrawn.

Edward Luttwak is a leading American authority on military strategy

## BOMBING

## US support for air raids stays strong despite peace move

FROM CHARLES BREMMER IN NEW YORK

NEWS of Iraq's peace move sent a wave of relief across America yesterday, but opinion polls showed the country overwhelmingly supported further bombing, even if it meant more civilian deaths.

Word of the Baghdad broadcast reached Americans as they prepared for work yesterday morning, prompting a buzz of excitement at the chance that a bloody ground offensive might not be necessary. In trains, at bus stops and office buildings, people joked and bantered about beating Saddam hands down.

The euphoria, albeit premature, followed a day in which Americans from coast to coast, demonstrated their strong support for the president's bombing campaign and anger towards the media for the way they presented the carnage in the Baghdad bomb shelter.

In a national poll conducted on Thursday, over 24 hours after the shelter attack, USA

Today found that 92 per cent of Americans favoured continued bombing even if it led to more such civilian casualties. A full 41 per cent said the shelter bombing had made them "more supportive" of the war. Seven out of ten said civilian deaths were preferable to US military casualties. Eighty-four per cent of Americans blamed Saddam for the deaths in the bomb shelter and half the country believed US correspondents should not stay in Baghdad. The popular mood was seized by the *New York Post* in its banner headline yesterday: "Bombs away".

Callers jammed radio and television stations to state their support for the military and attack the network broadcasters who used words such as "tragedy" to narrate the video footage of the bunker carnage. Most blamed Saddam Hussein for using civilians as "human shields". Throughout the war, polls have shown

a belief among broad sections of the public that the media were too charitable towards Iraq's version of the war and hostile towards the American military. The Cable News Network (CNN), which has taken most of the heat because it has maintained a crew in Baghdad, said it had received more than a thousand calls from angry viewers over its correspondent's report from the Baghdad shelter. CNN also broadcast footage from ITN's team there.

The public reaction has clearly shown that while President Saddam has scooped a propaganda windfall from the shelter attack in the Middle East and elsewhere, he has failed so far to come close to moving American opinion, one of the targets he declared he could easily hit.

Another poll, conducted a day before the shelter attack and published yesterday by *The New York Times* and CBS, showed that the public overwhelmingly favoured continued bombing as an alternative to ground action. However, only 45 per cent of the public agreed that "a ground war to defeat Iraq would be worth the cost of losing thousands of American lives". Public approval of President Bush's overall job performance remained at 78 per cent, extraordinarily high.

Editors and broadcast managers have been struggling to analyse the backlash against the media, a matter of great importance in particular to the big television networks which face financial difficulties and depend on audience ratings for their income. One widespread explanation is that with broadcasts of military briefings, the public is seeing for the first time the adversarial give-and-take that is routine for any American-style press conference.

## Fuel-air arms to clear Iraqi mines

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

AMERICAN bombers have begun using fuel-air bombs, capable of producing a blast wave five times greater than a conventional explosive, to clear some of the 500,000 mines Iraq is believed to have laid to disrupt an allied advance.

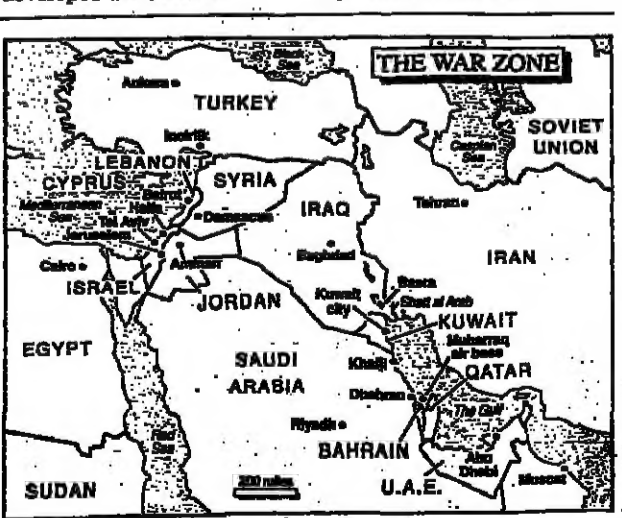
US officials in Riyadh said yesterday that the bombs are being used with heavyweights "Daisy Cutter" bombs in an attempt to clear the minefields. The blast produced by the weapons rivals that of a tactical nuclear weapon.

Fuel-air bombs, which were used during the Vietnam war, are a devastating weapon against troops, both because of blast and because the intense fire depletes the air of oxygen and causes suffocation. Bunkers and armoured vehicles are insufficient to protect troops against its effects.

The 500lb bombs designed for mine-clearing are dropped from helicopters or slow-flying aircraft at about 2,000ft. Each bomb contains three 100lb containers which separate from the casing and float down under parachutes. Inside the containers is an inflammable liquid, ethylene oxide, which escapes when the canister ruptures, forming a

cloud of gas about 50ft in diameter and 8ft deep. A delayed-action igniter then sets the gas cloud alight. If the timing is right, the result is a huge blast which can create sufficient pressure to detonate mines over a considerable area.

When first developed in the United States, the fuel-air bomb was described as "the poor man's atom bomb", and Iraq is known to have taken a close interest in the technology. So far there has been no evidence that Iraq might have developed the bombs.



## Vietnam veterans adjust to straight and sober war

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN EASTERN SAUDI ARABIA

WITH no sex, no drugs and very little rock 'n' roll, the American forces now waiting impatiently in the desert for the land battle are in very different shape from those who fought in Vietnam two decades ago.

The difference is so marked that the GIs have begun to call the Gulf conflict "the square war", while their officers maintain that before long it will be President Saddam Hussein who will be feeling the difference in military quality, determination and sobriety.

"It is a pleasure to walk from tent to tent and see soldiers without glazed eyes," said Sergeant Major Lincoln Mallisham, aged 46, who served in Vietnam in 1969 and 1970. Spuff, caffeine, cigarettes and

chewing tobacco are the only stimulants to relieve the tedium of the wait for combat and to calm nerves. American combat engineers, the troops expected to be first across the border into occupied Kuwait, are chewing instant coffee, straight from the jar for rapid effect. "Cooking it takes too long to hit you," said Sergeant Darin Hardwick. "We wash it down with water and it keeps us squared away."

The unavailability of local women is pointed out by the GIs' universal description of the veiled Saudi females as "Ninja Turtles". Although the American army now has many more women serving than during the Vietnam era, the absence of privacy in the desert is reported by male soldiers to have reduced temptation almost to nil. Commenting on the differences,

which have become an obsession in the lull before the land war, Mike Sharp, an American journalist, wrote optimistically: "In the last war, it was Cambodian Red. Thai stick, Park Lane joints and Cholon opium dens. Bam Mi Bam (33) beer. Enlisted men's clubs with Filipino fans lip-synching the war's top song. 'We've gotta get out of this place.' NCO clubs clanging country and western through ever longer happy hours, there were dough-nut dillies, Tude Street's 'numbah 1' silicone-enhanced baby-sans and government-inspected steam-and-grease massage-sauna baths near every firebase. That was the last war. The one we lost." As Michael Herr observed in his book *Dispatches*, Vietnam was the first rock 'n' roll war, dominated by the music of groups such as The Rolling Stones,

The Doors and Creedence Clearwater Revival; musically the square war is the quiet one. American military stations only broadcast in a few areas and dozens of units are on the move, out of range every week. The disc jockeys are soft-spoken, in some cases avuncular, and there is an increasing emphasis on sentimental tunes. "They play our music from 1pm to 2pm," complained one black GI. "One hour." According to defence analysts, the absence of drugs is dictated not only by the shortage of supply but also by the rigid screening process now undertaken by the US armed forces to weed out drug users.

The clean living has been accompanied by a new approach to service which some are comparing to the famous "can do" attitude of American troops in the second

world war. Standard replies from a lower-ranking soldier to someone he salutes in the desert are "not a problem" and "I'll make it happen".

These are compared to well-rehearsed responses to superiors from soldiers in Vietnam such as "sounds like a personal problem to me" or simply "short", the anti-war cry of men counting backwards from 365 until Day Deros (date of estimated return from overseas).

For GIs in Saudi Arabia, there is no Deros, but the vague phrase "for the duration". As Mr Sharp remarked with surprise: "American troops are preparing for their first big ground combat in nearly 20 years and they are going into it straight, sober and focused." (This report is subject to allied military reporting restrictions)



Water therapy: Mark Doyle, a Life Guard trooper, taking his turn to use a makeshift but welcome shower in the Saudi Arabian desert to wash himself free, however briefly, from the clogging sand and dust

## ROYAL AIR FORCE

## Jets queue for fuel pump in the sky

FROM LIN JENKINS IN THE GULF

THE dials of the display panel indicated they were near and coming in fast. "They must be close, they are at zero range," said Flight Lieutenant John Ingham, staring out of his side window in the RAF Victor jet fuel tanker.

Out of mine they came into view on the right wing, two jets heavy with bombs, and without a murmur over the radio they manoeuvred skilfully out of sight of the cockpit to the rear of the aircraft to couple with the hoses trailing out of the back in order to refuel in the air.

Viewed through the periscope of the rear console, the precision was remarkable. With all three aircraft travelling at about 400 miles an hour, the F3s nudged gently forward and pushed their probes into the basket at the end of each hose. "It would be difficult to say when a pair of aircraft came up as good as that in 20-odd years," shouted Wing Commander David Wil-

liams over the din as the planes sucked out fuel at 300 pounds a minute.

Full to the limit they peeled away from the Victor tanker, circling above the Gulf like a petrol station in the sky, the last friendly sight the aircrews would see before crossing the border on their bombing mission to Iraq.

Wing Commander Williams, who commands 55 Squadron which flies the Victors, believes air-to-air refuelling should be done without chat and fuss.

"They have enough on their minds with the surface-to-air missiles and triple A they are going to fly into. They don't want this to be a hassle," he shouted.

We had been flying for nearly two hours and as we maintained course circling above the desert, two more jet bombers from the Royal Saudi Air Force are expected, but there is always the possibility that others from

the allied forces will be forced to make an unscheduled stop. In the front sit the pilot, Timothy Hatcher, and co-pilot Timothy Walker.

Just behind them is the fifth seat, which has been put back in especially for this trip. It has been deemed a hazard in combat, should the crew have to bail out. Back to back with the others sit the navigator and air electronics officer leaning on a desktop surrounded by dials and lights.

The wing commander pulls a can of orange juice from his bag and the pilot opens a flask of coffee and pours three cups, handing one to me. Next comes the Kit-Kat to complete a rather unexpected in-flight service as they swap jokes and hurl affectionate insults at each other.

While there is little to do but wait, Flight Lieutenant Ingham flicks through his mail. With two flights of over three hours each in one day there is little time to do it elsewhere.

Ahead of schedule the other two jets appear. Wing Commander Williams watches them through the periscope when they drop slightly behind. "Three, two, one, push. In, connect, right. What a star!" he shouts. They stay several minutes.

Once they have gone there are quick sums to do to see how much fuel is left to give the first two, should they return. In the event we are not needed and head back to base. (This report is subject to allied military reporting restrictions)

## ROYAL NAVY

## Flagging morale receives a boost

FROM JAMIE DETTMER ON BOARD HMS LONDON

THE Royal Navy was yesterday praised by Lieutenant-General Sir Peter de La Billiere, the British Forces commander in the Middle East, for its successful action against Iraqi ships. He told the crew of HMS London, Britain's flagship in the Gulf, that the British ships had played a major part in guarding the allies' eastern flank.

He told the ship's company: "We have annihilated and destroyed Saddam Hussein's ability to produce any opposition at sea. The Royal Navy has been directly responsible for dealing with something in the region of 25 per cent of all the Iraqi naval forces that have been sunk and destroyed, and, when you bear in mind that you are substantially less than 25 per cent of the total of allied ships at sea in this theatre, that is a very creditable performance."

While Sir Peter acknowledged that the allied air assault on Iraq and Kuwait had been successful, he warned the crew against complacency. "The air battle, effectively, has been won although Saddam does possess the capability which he could use in a suicidal and surprise manner."

He said that he was aware many men were eager to get home. "It will not be that far distant, but there is some time to go."

Sir Peter's visit to HMS London was well-timed: there has been a noticeable decline in morale during the past few days. Many of the crew are disappointed that, having practised for years in the unpredictable and windy seas of northern Britain, they have not yet seen direct action.

Others face the frustration of seeing HMS Brazen and HMS Cardiff being sent home while HMS London must stay. "Sadly, for operational reasons, the originally planned departure date for the four warships, London, Brazen, Cardiff and Gloucester, has had to be disrupted," Commodore Christopher Craig, the senior Royal Navy officer in the Gulf, said. (This dispatch is subject to allied reporting restrictions.)

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# Snow, Saddam and slump send holiday bookings tumbling

By HARVEY ELLIOTT  
AIR CORRESPONDENT

PEACE must be restored in the Gulf within three weeks if Britain's travel industry is to avoid a catastrophic collapse. Tour operators, travel agents and airlines were briefly excited by yesterday's half-promise of a settlement but within hours were once again preparing to withdraw millions of holidays from sale in the face of their biggest downturn in bookings. Some remain determined that

once the war is over holiday-makers will flock back. Others are blaming the snow for the dearth of customers. However, many fear that the depth of the recession may be the main reason for the fall of well over half in the number of holidays being booked compared with the same time last year.

By early March, the industry will have to decide whether to hold on to thousands of charter flights and hotel rooms around the world, or to cancel them and run the risk that there could be a

sudden upsurge that would leave many holiday-makers with no choice. Tour operators are bound by a code of conduct to confirm their arrangements with clients eight weeks before travel. Pressure is growing for this to be reduced drastically to provide more flexibility and enable decisions on which flights to operate as events unfold.

David Epstein, director general of the Association of British Travel Agents, said: "I think that this year, with the particular problems faced by our members, we would be loathe to hammer them when they are down."

Peter Rothwell, managing director of the travel agents Lunn Poly, said: "No one has wanted to go anywhere for the last ten days, let alone into a travel agent's, because of the snow, and we will be monitoring closely what happens now that there is a thaw. Bookings were doing well before the Gulf war and could quickly come back again. The trouble would come if it drags on for a few months and begins to bite into the peak summer period or if the recession turns into a slump."

Harry Goodman, chairman of International Leisure Group, said: "Once the war is over there will be a wave of euphoria and people will want to get away from all the doom and gloom. All we can do until then is to take decisions on a day-to-day basis and be as flexible as we can in confirming bookings."

By now, almost half the six million summer holidays on offer should have been sold, but fewer than two million bookings have been made, almost all of them before the war began. Everyone is blaming the war, but Silvano Girardin believes British Rail is as much at fault for there being only 35 diners in Le Gavroche last Friday night (Alan Hamilton writes).

The manager of one of London's most fashionable restaurants, who would in happier times expect all his 80 seats to be fully booked up to at least three weeks ahead, has been driven to drastic measures: a three-course

## Fewer state pupils win places at Cambridge

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE proportion of state school pupils winning a place at Cambridge university has fallen for the first time in six years. Oxford has already announced a similar drop.

Only 45 per cent of last autumn's Cambridge entry came from state schools, compared with 47 per cent in 1989. Admissions tutors believe that changes designed to encourage state school applicants may be responsible for the decline.

Some colleges have been assessing applicants on A levels alone, rather than asking them to sit tests intended to replace the Cambridge entrance examination, which was abolished in 1985 because it was held to favour those from independent schools.

Philip Ford, chairman of the inter-collegiate admissions forum, said yesterday that the process was working against state pupils.

"There is no intentional discrimination, quite the contrary," he said. "I think that the colleges will draw conclusions from this, although one should not exaggerate what has happened. The drop is depressing but it is just a hiccup in what has been a consistent trend in the last few years."

The proportion of state school entrants rose by 10 per cent between 1986 and 1989

## Planners 'stifling' Brecon Beacons

By JOHN YOUNG

MORE than 10,000 people, about a quarter of the adult population of the Brecon Beacons national park, have signed a petition expressing no confidence in the park planning authority.

They claim that people wanting to start businesses, including farmers who are being encouraged by the government to diversify, are unable to do so due to excessively restrictive planning policies.

The petition calls for a referendum on whether some areas should be removed from the jurisdiction of the park committee, including the town of Brecon, where the council has passed a resolution supporting "independence".

The Brecon Beacons is one of the 11 national parks in England and Wales established under a 1949 Act of Parliament, and its dismemberment would be legally and practically almost impossible but the petition organisers have asked Richard Lacey, SLD MP for Brecon and Radnor, to present the document to David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, in the hope that he will intervene in the dispute.

Ashford Price, who has won three Prince of Wales Awards for Enterprise, is a former farmer who now runs the Danyrogoft Caves, said to be the largest complex in Western Europe and an important tourist attraction. He is anxious to expand his equestrian interests, including the breeding and training of stire



Traditional farming: sheep graze in the Brecon Beacons but residents say planners are hindering new initiatives

horses, but has been unable to obtain planning permission. "I have found no difficulty in working with other authorities like the Nature Conservancy Council and the Mid-Wales Development Board," he said. "But with the national park committee it is absolutely impossible. 'Farmers can't diversify.

Many are selling up and their children are leaving the area. There must be changes which will allow people to earn a living or the place will end up as just one giant holiday home."

"What we are really concerned about is the off-hand attitude of planning officers. They are not really concerned about people and they seem to be keen on saying no to everything."

Gwyn Gwillim, a member of the park committee and a Powys county councillor, claims that if everyone in the area had been approached the number of signatures could have been doubled. "One of my complaints is that we are not consistent," he said. "We tend to put stricter controls on small individuals

than on large bodies like British Coal, British Telecom and the electricity board, which is allowed to clutter up the countryside with pylons."

"We gave permission to the water board to put up a filtration plant, which is a real eyesore and looks horrible in a very sensitive area, yet ordinary people have to bother about whether they have the right coloured tiles or slates on the roof of their home."

Martin Sisson, the newly appointed national park officer, said he was aware of the problems and recognised that communications in the past had been unsatisfactory. Since taking up the post at the beginning of this year he was determined to change things and intended to start planning "surgeries" where people could come with complaints and had already attended a number of public meetings.

About 70 per cent of all planning applications were passed, which was in line with the national average, but some schemes would still have to be refused and that was the problem. Until now overall responsibility for the national parks had rested with the Countryside Commission, but from 1 April the three parks in Wales will come under a new Welsh authority.



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## Astronomer Royal urges Clarke to clarify policy

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE new Astronomer Royal, Arnold Wolfendale, has challenged Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, to make clear his policy on the future of astronomy and nuclear physics in Britain.

Professor Wolfendale, who promised when appointed Astronomer Royal last month that he would continue to battle for support for science, says in a letter to Mr Clarke that he believes the Advisory Board for the Research Councils has recommended further reductions in support for nuclear physics and astronomy, already suffering from cutbacks. This year, for the first time, the board's recommendations to the minister have not been made public.

"I really must enquire whether this policy is endorsed by your department," Professor Wolfendale writes. "Since these are high-profile branches of science, with international ramifications,

the government must surely have a policy."

The education department said yesterday that it had no comment to make and would not have until Mr Clarke had had time to consider the Astronomer Royal's letter and respond to it. Professor Wolfendale says the un-

certainly is a consequence of Mr Clarke's decision not to publish the board's recommendations - "a remarkable volte-face for a government that prides itself on openness."

The board's view, he says, appears to be that small science is suffering from a shortage of funds as a result of the large sums needed for telescopes and nuclear science facilities, and that new areas of science, such as biotechnology, also require support. From that, he suggests, has emerged the recommendation that further cuts should be made in astronomy and nuclear physics to make room for more spending on the small sciences.

The letter is another step in a campaign by British scientists that is growing increasingly strident, and further evidence that the government has lost the confidence of senior scientists.

Wolfendale plea for a return to openness

Wolfendale plea for a return to openness

## Court settlement

THE Sunday Times agreed yesterday to publish an apology to Sean Doherty, a former Irish cabinet minister who complained that he had been labelled last year, and to contribute towards his legal costs. Mr Doherty, now chairman of the Irish Senate, agreed to withdraw his libel action in the settlement, which was announced in the Irish High Court. He said he felt that his reputation had been vindicated.

## Hotel blocked

Proposals for a hotel and golf course at the listed country house Burley-on-the-Hill were blocked yesterday by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, who directed Rutland district council not to grant planning permission without his authority. The house was bought less than a year ago by a family trust formed by Azzal Nadir, head of the collapsed Polly Peck group, and is for sale.

## Altered extradition charges contested

By EDWARD GORMAN  
IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Crown Prosecution Service is to challenge a decision by Thames magistrates' court on Thursday that altered charges under which an IRA suspect extradited from Ireland is to be tried.

The decision to initiate proceedings in the case of Desmond Ellis follows a strong protest by the Irish government yesterday pointing out that the rule of speciality in extradition agreements had been broken by the decision. The statement said the Irish government expected the prosecuting authorities in Britain to challenge the magistrates, adding that an assurance had been given that this would now take place.

Mr Ellis, aged 38, a television repairman from Finglas in north Dublin, originally faced two charges under the 1983 Explosive Substances Act of conspiracy to cause an explosion likely to endanger life on or between January 1981 and October 1983, and possession of explosives.

Thames magistrates' court rejected the charges as submitted and substituted two new ones brought under the Offences Against the Person Act 1961 and the Criminal Damage Act 1971, that he conspired to cause explosions within the UK with intent to cause serious bodily harm and destroy property.

The switch in the charges was considered by London extradition lawyers as a violation of the principle that an

extraditee only be tried on the charges under which he was originally extradited.

A spokeswoman for the Crown Prosecution Service confirmed that action is to be taken and that consideration is being given to a number of possible options on how to proceed.

Those include seeking to quash the magistrate's decision on the grounds that it is illegal or unreasonable in a divisional court, or proceeding through a voluntary bill of indictment at the High Court.

The Ellis case is being watched closely in Dublin. His case was the first to be dealt with under the 1987 Extradition Act, which was designed to simplify extradition.

THE TIMES SATURDAY  
Alzhe  
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Driver's  
sentence  
doubled  
Mr Justice  
Tudor Evans  
100 jobs lost  
Court settlement  
Hotel blocked  
Henry V  
spared a  
Altered extradition charges contested



# Alzheimer's disease breakthrough may lead to treatment

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE cause of an inherited form of Alzheimer's disease has been discovered by British scientists, offering the prospect of new drugs to treat it.

The disease is the most common progressive brain disorder, accounting for 75 per cent of dementia in the elderly, and is incurable. Because of the ageing populations in Britain and other Western countries, urgent research is being conducted into the condition internationally.

Although the latest finding relates only to a minority of cases, it may lead to the causes of other types of the disease being detected, one of the researchers said yesterday.

The discovery was made possible by a Nottingham school-teacher who saw her father and three of her aunts struck in rapid succession by the disorder, and realised that it was unlikely to be a coincidence.

Carol Jennings, aged 36, a teacher and the wife of a Methodist minister, contacted doctors investigating the condition at the biochemistry and neurology departments of St Mary's Hospital medical school, Paddington, west London. She persuaded ten of the family's 40 members to supply blood samples to the researchers. They then were able to establish a link between the early onset of inherited Alzheimer's and a genetic mutation.

The mutation governs the production of amyloid, a pro-

tein known to form deposits in the brains of Alzheimer's sufferers. Amyloid is part of the body's ageing process and is associated with degenerative illnesses, including rheumatoid arthritis.

Children of a father or mother carrying the genetic defect have a 50 per cent chance of acquiring it, and if they do so, will go to develop the condition.

The studies, funded by the Mental Health Foundation, will be published in *Nature* next week. Dr Mike Mullan, one of the researchers, said yesterday: "This is the first time that a cause has been established in Alzheimer's disease."

"We are extending our work to look for mutations in the same gene in other families, and have already found it in one more. We are now in a position to start to look for treatments. The discovery will make the whole basis of drug trials more rational."

Dr Mike Owen, a geneticist at the University of Wales medical college, Cardiff, who took part in the work, said: "We may also have identified an important genetic factor related to the late onset of non-familial Alzheimer's, but this is a long way from a cure. However, by understanding the process causing the disease we can design treatments to interfere with it."

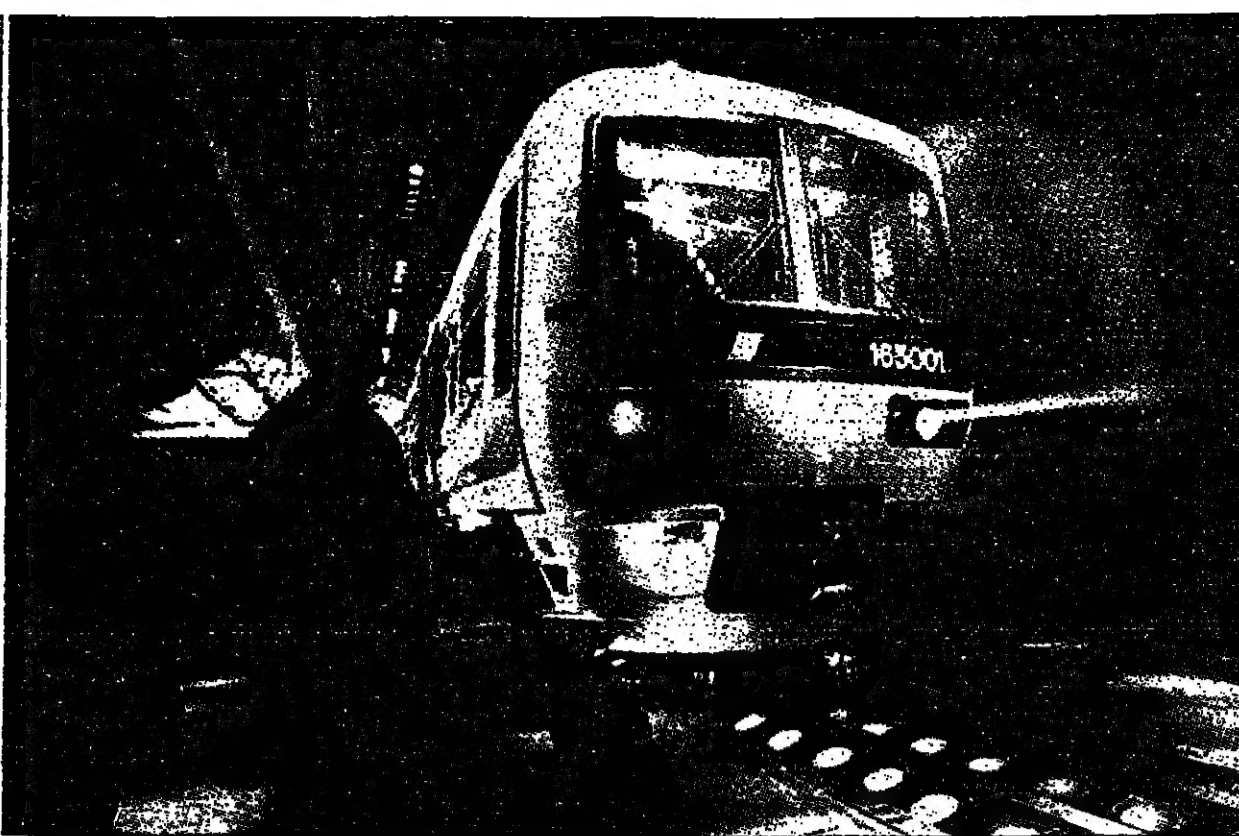
About 15 per cent of Alzheimer's sufferers are believed to inherit the condition,

but symptoms seldom appear before the age of 60. The disease debilitates nerve cells in the brain, shrinking the volume of brain substance, and gradually destroying memory and personality.

Research into a disease in donkeys could help in the development of a vaccine against cervical cancer, according to veterinary scientists. The animals are prone to tumours caused by a virus from the same family as that which can trigger cancer of the cervix in women.

Specialists at Glasgow university veterinary school are treating the tumours with a form of immunotherapy that could assist efforts to produce a cervical cancer vaccine. Their work is being supported by a charitable donkey sanctuary in Sidmouth, Devon, and the Cancer Research Campaign.

The health department yesterday said 130 new Aids cases were recorded in the UK last month, bringing the total to 4,228 since reporting began in 1982. Of the total, 2,375 patients have died, including 119 last month.



White hope: British Rail yesterday took possession of its new Class 165 Network Turbo "snow proof" trains in York. The £104.3 million fleet of two and three-unit trains, built by BREL, are to operate from London stations

## Muffling the roar of all-night trains

By MICHAEL DYNES  
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

PROPOSALS for Britain's first national rail noise protection standard will be published in the next few weeks, Roger Freeman, the transport minister, has confirmed.

The noise standard, which will be applied to all new

railway lines, is expected to provide people living near them with the same level of protection from railway noise that is provided for those living near new roads.

It is understood that the standard will include a noise trigger level, above which rail operators will be legally

obliged to provide effective noise insulation for residents badly affected.

The recommendation is contained in the report by Dr Christopher Mitchell, head of the vehicles and environment division at the transport and road research laboratory in Berkshire. The report was

submitted to the transport department in December.

British Rail has suggested a 24-hour standard of 70 decibels. Critics say that level is too high and would allow an increase in the number of freight and passenger train movements at night without undermining the standard.

## Loan will replace LPO's lost grant

By SIMON TAIT  
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE London Philharmonic Orchestra has secured a £500,000 interest-free loan to replace the grant the orchestra was expecting from the Arts Council's enhancement fund for the next financial year.

Elliott Bernard, chairman of the London Philharmonic Trust, said: "The loan, from a private source which we cannot name, is conditional on the Arts Council's commitment to extra financial support for our residency at the South Bank, which we take up in the autumn of next year."

He could not confirm that the Arts Council had promised an extra £500,000 for 1992-3 to coincide with the residency, but said that "amiable negotiations" had been continuing this week with the Arts Council. The council last night refused to confirm a figure but said that it had agreed that an extra grant would be made.

As well as missing out on enhancement funding, the LPO was the only music client of the Arts Council to have its revenue grant cut for next year, from £465,000 to £462,000.

## Driver's sentence doubled

By DAVID YOUNG

THE Court of Appeal has doubled a nine-month youth custody sentence imposed on a teenage driver who killed a pedestrian after spending more than five hours at a public house.

The heavier sentence on Lisa Veronica Ashley, an 18-year-old secretary, was announced by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, yesterday. He said that the court agreed with the Attorney-general, who had challenged the original sentence on the ground that it was too lenient.

Ashley, of Sunderland, was sentenced and banned for five years by Newcastle crown court in October after she admitted driving while unfit through drink and causing the death of Dennis Bryant by reckless driving. Mr Bryant died in hospital after being hit by Ashley's car.

Lord Lane said that Ashley had earlier fallen asleep in a pub and bar staff had had to wake her up. She was on the wrong side of the road when the accident happened and did not stop, but reported to the police the following day.



Lord Lane: original sentence too lenient

## Missing girl, 8, murdered

By CRAIG SETON

POLICE launched a murder hunt yesterday after the naked body of a girl aged eight, who disappeared while running an errand for her parents to a local shop, was discovered.

Karin Griffin was found by searchers in a barrel of water on an allotment a few hundred yards from her parents' terraced house in Sherwood Street in the mining community of Mansfield Woodhouse, Nottinghamshire. She was believed to have been stabbed.

Karin's unemployed father Bill, and mother, Sharon, reported her missing on Thursday evening after she failed to return from an errand to buy teabags at Ray's general store 150 yards from their home. Police conducted house-to-house enquiries and searched a park and coalpit near by before her body was discovered 12 hours later.

Professor Stephen Jones, a Home Office pathologist, conducted a post mortem examination yesterday. Later police appealed for information about a young man with a racing bicycle who may have been seen with Karin.

Karin, one of three daughters, was wearing blue jeans, a black jumper decorated with snowmen and a jacket when she disappeared.

Jean Case, a neighbour, said yesterday: "Karin was a lovely girl. She always had a wave and smile for everybody. Every morning she used to wave to me through the window on her way to school. She was a pretty little thing. The whole street is in a state of shock."

Nottinghamshire police said yesterday that a local man, aged 29, was being questioned.

## Henry VIII's suit spared a dousing

By SIMON TAIT

HENRY VIII's suit of armour narrowly missed serious damage as hundreds of gallons of water flooded the White Tower in the Tower of London. It was disclosed yesterday.

Guy Wilson, Master of the Armouries, said that water from a burst pipe feeding a fire hydrant on the roof fell through the Tudor and Renaissance galleries to the hunting galleries on the ground floor where it penetrated cases containing swords and firearms. "It was a miracle that Henry VIII's armour was not affected, but the water seeped underneath the case without getting in," he said.

Damage assessed at £50,000 to £80,000 was done to cases, floors and exhibits. Fortunately, the burst, early on Monday, was discovered within an hour-and-a-half and arm-

ouries conservators rescued threatened exhibits, but the incident highlights the plight of a national collection housed in a national monument, according to Mr Wilson.

The Royal Armouries received £3.4 million running costs this financial year from the environment department, to be increased to £3.9 million next year. The rise, however, is to include funding for completing the installation of a branch museum at Fort Nelson, Portsmouth. The arm-

ouries receive no benefit from admission charges to the Tower, and money-raising opportunities open to other national museums, such as the hire of galleries for events, are prevented by the Tower's royal palace status.

Railway snow apology, and Weather, page 24

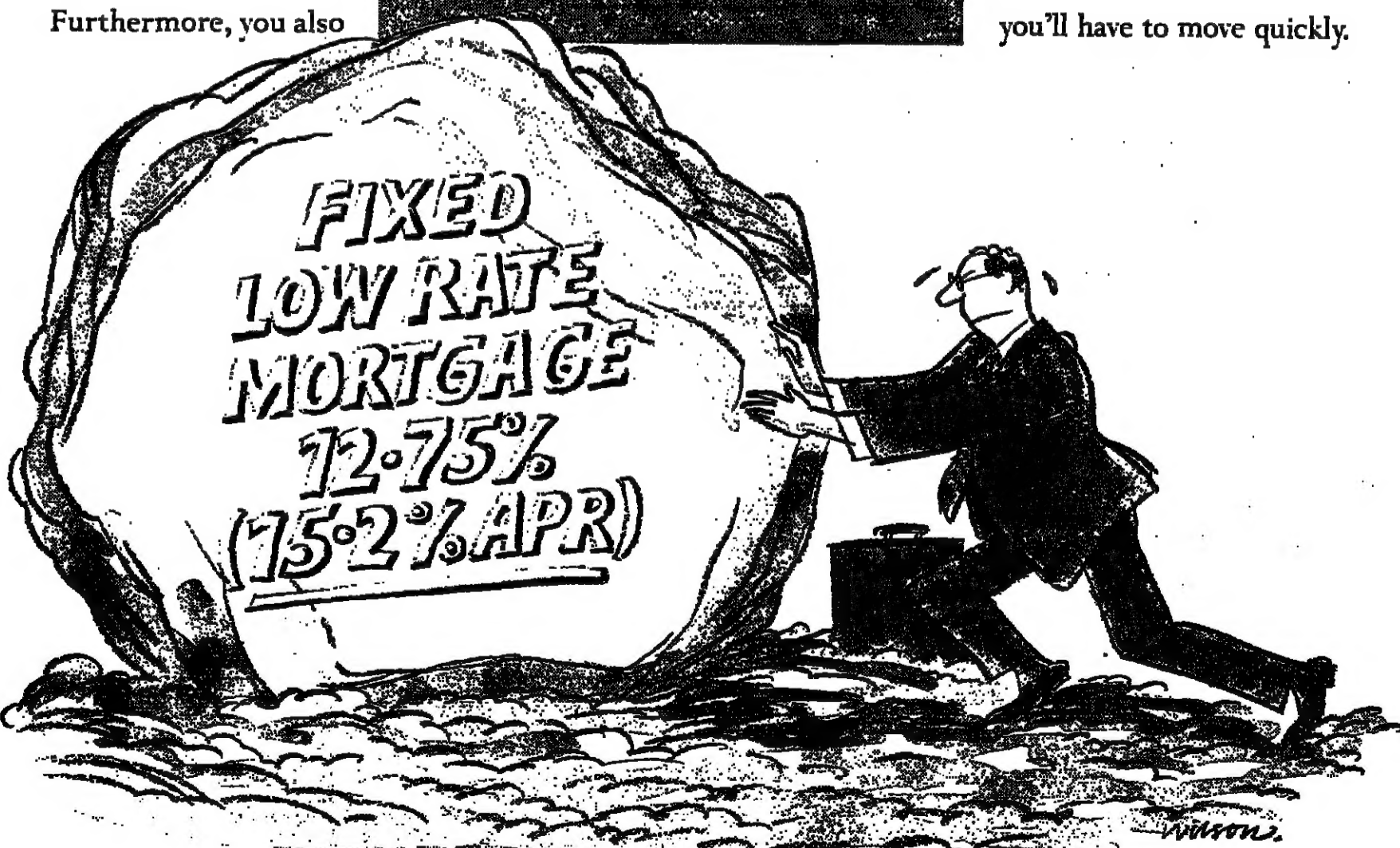
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# Critics fail to dent impact of RPI as inflation indicator

THE retail price index is the measure of inflation which catches the headlines, embarrases the government, drives pay demands, and forms the basis of annual uprating of state benefits and pensions.

But it is far from the only calculation the Central Statistical Office undertakes to trace the rise of prices in the economy. Apart from the RPI, whose inclusion of volatile mortgage interest payments is

**Colin Narbrough reports on the ways we measure inflation**

regarded by many economists as a poor guide to inflation, there are, among others, a separate index for pensioners, a tax and price index, and several seeking to measure underlying inflation.

Within the monthly RPI data there is much detailed information, too, about how prices move within the various categories of household expenditure. Those range from the price of seasonal food to fuel and light, leisure and motoring.

For all the criticism levelled at the RPI over the years, the former measure of prices affecting the households of working people has become the main inflation figure for the government and the public alike. Today, it seeks to track the prices the average household has to pay for a basket of 600 separate goods and services through regular

snapping in 180 towns across the country. As consumers' shopping habits change, the RPI's basket is amended and reweighted. More than 120,000 price quotations now go towards the index.

The shopping basket is selected from the annual family expenditure survey conducted by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, which consults a cross-section of 7,000 households.

To achieve a statistically representative standard, the measure excludes the spending patterns of the richest 4 per cent of households. It also disregards the poorest 14 per cent of households, mainly pensioners, who rely on state benefits for more than three quarters of their income.

For pensioners, a separate index is worked out each quarter to give the government an idea of what such households, which usually have low housing costs, have to pay for goods and services.

The RPI has faced criticism over its suspected tendency to exaggerate the swings in inflation. But repeated reviews by a special panel of experts has failed to produce fundamental changes to the measure.

For the government a serious concern has been the annual uprating of state pensions and benefits based on the October RPI. Last year, that coincided with the peak in annual inflation of 10.9 per cent. Some private-sector pay deals, especially in the car industry, have also been linked to the RPI, helping, in many economists' opinion, to keep inflationary pressures higher than necessary.

A breakdown of the January RPI shows that the rise in food prices slowed to an annual 5.9 per cent while housing, the main household expenditure, though decelerating was still 17 per cent up on last year. The Gulf war has boosted prices for fuel and light to an annual 9.9 per cent.



With love from the USA: a marble Venus emerging from her shell receives initial attention yesterday at Crowther of Syon Lodge, west London, specialists in architectural antiques. The firm acquired the mid 19th-century figure from a mansion in Connecticut built for the Colgate family

## Ministers press on with plan to make fathers pay

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE government has gone ahead with its plans to seek maintenance payments from absent fathers, virtually unchanged from autumn's white paper. The Child Support Bill published yesterday has swept aside critical responses from interested groups over the past two months.

The bill includes the controversial proposal of penalising women who fail to disclose the whereabouts of an absent father. It also fails to give details of the formula to be adopted or how the child support agency that is to be set up to recover payments instead of the courts, will operate, adding to concern by poverty groups that poor families will suffer.

It emerged yesterday that

the agency, to be based outside London, will create more than 2,000 jobs when it opens in two years' time. About 2,500 social security staff dealing with maintenance payments will be transferred to it, to be joined by 2,200 new staff.

However, the bill makes clear that the courts will retain some jurisdiction in the long term in cases such as where step-children have existing legal rights, or for "top-up" awards above the normal upper limit of the formula.

The government wants to ensure that fathers pay child costs to single mothers that are now picked up in social security payments at a cost of over £1 billion. Only £150 million maintenance money is collected by the social security department.

Under the plans, fathers will have to pay up to half their disposable income in maintenance costs, and lone working mothers caring for children may have to contribute to maintenance.

In addition, lone mothers may lose 20 per cent of benefit if they fail to reveal the father's whereabouts. The government has said that exceptions would be made in

cases of rape or incest, but has refused to list valid reasons for refusal in the bill. Benefit deductions may be made where there is "no good reason" for failing to co-operate, the bill says.

Single parents will be given incentives to work following changes to the benefit system that will allow a £15 maintenance disregard on family credit and increased eligibility for this benefit by reducing the number of hours worked to qualify for family credit from 24 to 16.

The National Council for One Parent Families said that it regretted that much of the detail of the plans had been left to regulations. Sue Slippman, the council's director, said: "We are very disappointed that the government has not reconsidered its intention to remove benefit payments from families in which mothers do not wish to name fathers, as we believe this will cause great hardship to vulnerable children."

Announcing the bill, Tony Newton, the social security secretary, said that comments would be taken into account in "the practical implementation" of the arrangements.

## BBC TV gets new managing director

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

WILL Wyatt is to take over as managing director of BBC Television, replacing Sir Paul Fox, who retires in April, as the corporation's number three, the BBC announced yesterday.

Mr Wyatt, assistant managing director of television since 1988, takes over the BBC's biggest spending directorate, with overall responsibility for the whole of television, from programmes and scheduling to resources. He is third in rank to Michael Checkland, the director-general, and John Birt, Mr Checkland's deputy.

Mr Wyatt said yesterday he was determined to lead a television service "that is a beacon for talent and a place where the best people believe they can do their best work; and where the finest British programmes are made and the interests of the British public come first." He wanted to see a popular, imaginative, fair-minded and friendly television service which was also leaner and fitter.

Mr Wyatt, aged 49, joined BBC radio news in 1965 as a sub-editor after several years as a reporter on *The Sheffield Morning Telegraph*. He read

history at Magdalen College, Oxford, and Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and moved into television production in 1968. He became head of television documentary features in 1981, moving up to head the BBC's features and documentaries group in 1987.

He was part of the "Funding the Future" team, whose report recommending £75 million annual cuts across the BBC by 1993 is now being implemented. He is also a director of the Broadcasting Audience Research Board.



Wyatt planning friendly but leaner, fitter service

## Amended bill seeks to defuse gay protest

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government is changing the criminal justice bill to make plain that its powers to impose heavier sentences for some violent and sexual offenders do not discriminate against homosexuals.

The bill gives powers for courts to order prison sentences for violent and sexual offenders, even if the offence would not normally justify custody, if they consider it necessary to protect the public from serious harm.

Ministers have denied allegations by homosexual groups that the legislation would increase sentences for consenting homosexual behaviour. The amended bill will make plain that the heavier sentences relate to "protecting members of the public from death, or serious injury whether physical or psychological, occasioned by further such offences committed..."

The Home Office said yesterday: "This makes it quite clear that the provision is aimed at protecting potential victims from crimes such as rape or child sex abuse. By no stretch of the imagination could this provision be construed as authorising a heavier penalty than that justified by the seriousness of the offence in the case of an offender who did not represent this kind of danger. The commission of acts of gross indecency between consenting adults, for example, would quite clearly not come within this criterion."

The government is also removing from clause 25 of the bill three categories of offences that at present included among those that might attract heavier sentences. Those are living on the earnings of male prostitution, procuring others to commit homosexual acts, and homosexual acts between members of crews of merchant ships. Two other offences that have caused concern are to remain. Those are offences under 1956 legislation of indecency between men and solicitation by men.

Peter Tatchell, spokesman for Outrage, a homosexual action group, said yesterday that the campaign against clause 25 would continue with a demonstration in London today. He said that the government's amendments continued to mark consenting homosexual indecency and soliciting as serious sex crimes, on a par with child abuse. That was unacceptable.

## Outcry as four more flee jail

Four more prisoners have broken out of Highpoint prison in Suffolk, said by the Home Office last year to be the scene of one in five prison escapes, and dubbed Britain's "leakiest" jail.

Police set up road blocks after the discovery at 3am of the disappearance of Robert Bunn, aged 25, David Hammond, aged 27, and Stephen Richards, 23, from the former Battle of Britain air base near Haverhill. The authorities are still seeking three other prisoners who fled Highpoint earlier this month.

Local people are concerned about the escapes. A county councillor, Colin Jones, said: "Highpoint has become a national centre of ridicule and it's time the Home Office did something about it."

## Cold death

James Kenroy, the Portsmouth coroner, yesterday recorded a verdict of death by self-neglect on Florence Perin, aged 83, who died of hypothermia at home with £2,400 hidden away.

## Caught on film

Roy Sargent Brake, aged 56, of Berwyn-Cood, Gwynedd, was fined £300 yesterday after being filmed on video poaching in Snowdonia. He admitted failing to return to the water a salmon hooked other than in the mouth.

## Car trick

Police are investigating the theft of a £27,000 Range Rover from a dealer at Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, by a man who took an unaccompanied test drive.

## Sacking award

Martin Boyce, aged 41, who was sacked as an instructor at the Indefatigable sea training school, on Anglesey, is to receive £11,667 in an agreed settlement after an industrial tribunal decided his dismissal was unfair.

## Timber posts

The Boulton and Paul timber company, of Lowestoft, Suffolk, is to create 50 jobs to cope with the installation of a £1 million machining line.

## Horse accident

A woman received serious facial injuries when an escaped horse crashed into her car on the A27, near Chichester, West Sussex, yesterday.

## Price increases

On Monday, the price of *The Daily Telegraph* rises from 35p to 40p during the week and from 40p to 45p on Saturday. *The Guardian* is increasing its price from 35p to 40p.

## Rising anger at 'falling' prices

By BILL FROST

THE latest fall in inflation was met with scepticism by shoppers at the Sainsbury supermarket in Nine Elms, south London yesterday.

Winifred Henderson, aged 63, said: "These figures do not mean anything. Prices keep on going up and up. Vegetables cost more than a month ago, so does fruit, meat, tea and coffee. If my son did not help us with the shopping bills my husband and I just could not eat."

Lee Martin, aged 33, said

the RPI had been "massaged", the last month had seen prices rise steeply. "We are a vegetarian family with two children. Our food bill has been going up sharply these last few months... The only item that costs less is recycled lavatory paper."

Dr Lilianne Field, an aesthetist, said she had noticed increases in the price of nappies and baby food over the last few weeks. "Everything on my weekly shopping list is more expensive."

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## Tories' choice outrages Catholics

By KERRY GILL

A TORY prospective parliamentary candidate is expected to be dropped by the party after outraging Roman Catholics by his fundamental religious views, including his belief that Catholics cannot be classed as Christians.

The future of Andrew Price, aged 30, who works for the Trinitarian Bible Society in London, will be decided after an interview with the candidates' selection board later this month. Mr Price, a member of the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland, was chosen by the local Conservative association

last month to contest the Western Isles at the next general election.

Since his adoption, unconfirmed by the selection board, he has made statements based on his strict religious beliefs that have upset party members and the large Catholic community in the islands. He has said that he would support civil disobedience in an attempt to stop Sunday ferry sailings to and from the Western Isles. His latest remark, however, was seen as the last straw.

Mr Price yesterday confirmed that he believed that Roman Catholic teaching

meant that the church's adherents could not be Christians. He said: "If Rome teaches that priests or saints or Mary can act as mediator, that is to be contrasted with the scriptures, which say there is only one mediator between God and man, the Christ Jesus."

The Free Presbyterian Church excommunicated Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, in 1989 for attending two Catholic requiem masses.

Lord Sanderson, chairman of the Scottish Conservatives, said he was unhappy with Mr Price and that the

local Conservative association would be asked why he was adopted without the correct procedure. A party insider said Mr Price's remarks "may well affect his suitability for a constituency in Scotland. It seems unlikely that the board will select him."

Mr Price, whose mother came from North Uist, said: "I am a Christian. My beliefs I endeavour to base entirely on the word of God." He said he would support a threatened blockade by fishermen aimed at stopping Sunday ferry sailings, due to start in the spring.

Labour its pol ready early el

Spending on Welsh tops UK average

Nine Valley by Hattersley madequa





# Labour gets its policies ready for early election

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

THE Labour leadership is to produce a new campaigning document over the next few months to update and project the party's policies in readiness for a general election. The exercise is being conducted by the review groups behind the radical overhaul of Labour's policies after the 1987 election. That involved the abandonment of unilateralism, acceptance of the market economy and wholehearted conversion to the European Community.

## Spending on Welsh tops UK average

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

WELSH Office spending in 1991-2 will be £4,920 million, an increase of 10 per cent on the previous year, the department's report said yesterday.

If expenditure falling within other departments' budgets is included, spending in Wales in 1989-90 was £2,596 per head, nearly 7 per cent higher than the United Kingdom average of £2,431 per head. The Welsh secretary is responsible for spending on tourism, roads and transport, housing and environmental services, education, the arts, health and personal social services.

Central government support for Welsh local authorities in 1991-2 will total £2,437 million and central government spending £2,486 million. Of that total health and personal social services will get £1,664 million (up 34 per cent over the previous year); industry, energy, trade and employment £189 million; roads £169 million; housing £149 million; agriculture, fisheries and food £119 million; environmental services £78 million; other public services £59 million; and other items £60 million.

Government expenditure in Northern Ireland is planned to rise from £6,422 million for 1991-2 to £7,170 million in 1993-4 (Edward Gorman writes).

Among priority tasks are the preparation of a medium-term strategy for the prison service, encouraging owner occupation by selling 2,750 council houses in 1991-2, and reducing energy consumption in the public sector by 15 per cent by 1994-5.

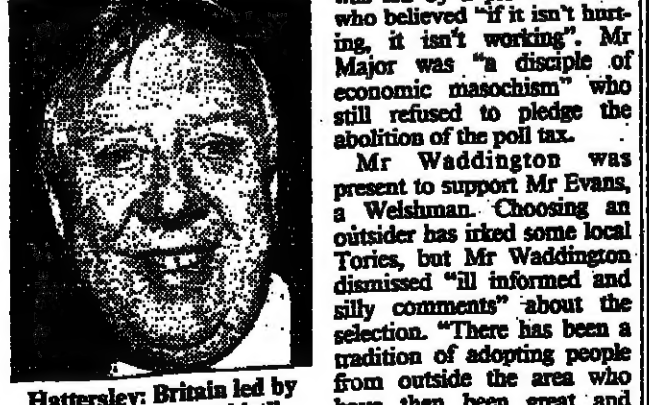
### Ribble Valley by-election

## Hattersley mocks 'inadequate' PM

By Ronald Faux

JOHN Major has sleepwalked Britain into the biggest slump for a decade, Roy Hattersley, the deputy Labour leader, said yesterday as campaigning began in the Ribble Valley by-election.

In a sharp personal attack, Mr Hattersley said that the policies pursued by the prime minister when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer and chief secretary to the Treasury were now exposed as disastrous errors. Mr Major



Hattersley, Britain led by "economic masochism" had neither the will nor the ability to rectify his mistakes, and wished for nothing more than to cut a fine figure in the House of Commons. "Not for him the conviction politics of his predecessor. His only interest is surviving question time in the House of Commons, which cruelly exposes his inadequacies," Mr Hattersley said. His speech at Clitheroe launched Josie Farrington, a county councillor, as Labour's candidate for the rural Lancashire seat. She faces Nigel

Evans, defending the 19,528 Conservative majority held by David Waddington, whose elevation to the Lords caused the contest. The Liberal Democrat candidate is Michael Carr. No other industrialised nation faced such a slump, Mr Hattersley went on. Only in Britain was the government encouraging the recession by the pursuit of high interest rates and the slow-down in manufacturing. Only Britain was led by a prime minister who believed "if it isn't hurting, it isn't working". Mr Major was "a disciple of economic masochism" who still refused to pledge the abolition of the poll tax. Mr Waddington was present to support Mr Evans, a Welshman. Choosing an outsider has irked some local Tories, but Mr Waddington dismissed "ill informed and silly comments" about the selection. "There has been a tradition of adopting people from outside the area who have then been great and enthusiastic fighters for the area."

The Liberal Democrats have brought their formidable Eastbourne team, complete with computers, to support Mr Carr, a teacher brought up in the Ribble Valley who has fought the seat twice as the Alliance candidate. Nominations close in six days. So far 11 contenders, including two independent Conservatives and an independent Liberal, have said that they intend to stand in the contest on March 7.

## Making life harder for badger baiters

Michael Hornsby considers the future for badgers in the light of a bill to protect their sets

A LABOUR backbencher's bill to give further protection to badgers was given a second reading in the Commons yesterday. Sponsored by Roy Hughes, MP for Newport East, it would make it a criminal act to dig up or damage badger sets.

The British badger (*Meles meles*) is a peaceable and gregarious animal of nocturnal habits that spends most of its time burrowing and digging. When attacked, however, it fights fiercely.

That is why for centuries some people have taken a cruel delight in catching badgers and pitting them against packs of dogs. Life may soon become harder for the badger-baiters and diggers after the unopposed passage of Mr Hughes's bill, which would give legal protection to badgers' sets, the extensive burrow systems in which the animals live in clan-like groups. Farmers and foxhunters, however, are worried that the bill could be unreasonably restrictive.

Badgers have been protected by law since the Badgers Act of 1973. The loophole in the act has been that it does not protect the

sets. Diggers and baiters have often been able to escape prosecution by claiming they were digging for foxes, which is legal.

"Badgers are not rare enough to qualify as an endangered species," Dr Don Jeffries, senior mammal ecologist at the Nature Conservancy Council (NCC), said yesterday.

A Nature Conservancy Council survey last month estimated that there were about 250,000 adult badgers in about 43,000 clan groups in Britain. They are most prolific in the South-West. About 105,000 cubs are born each year. Digging, most rife in northern counties, is blamed for the deaths of between 9,000 and 10,000 badgers a year.

Four times that number are killed by cars. Slightly more than 700 badgers,

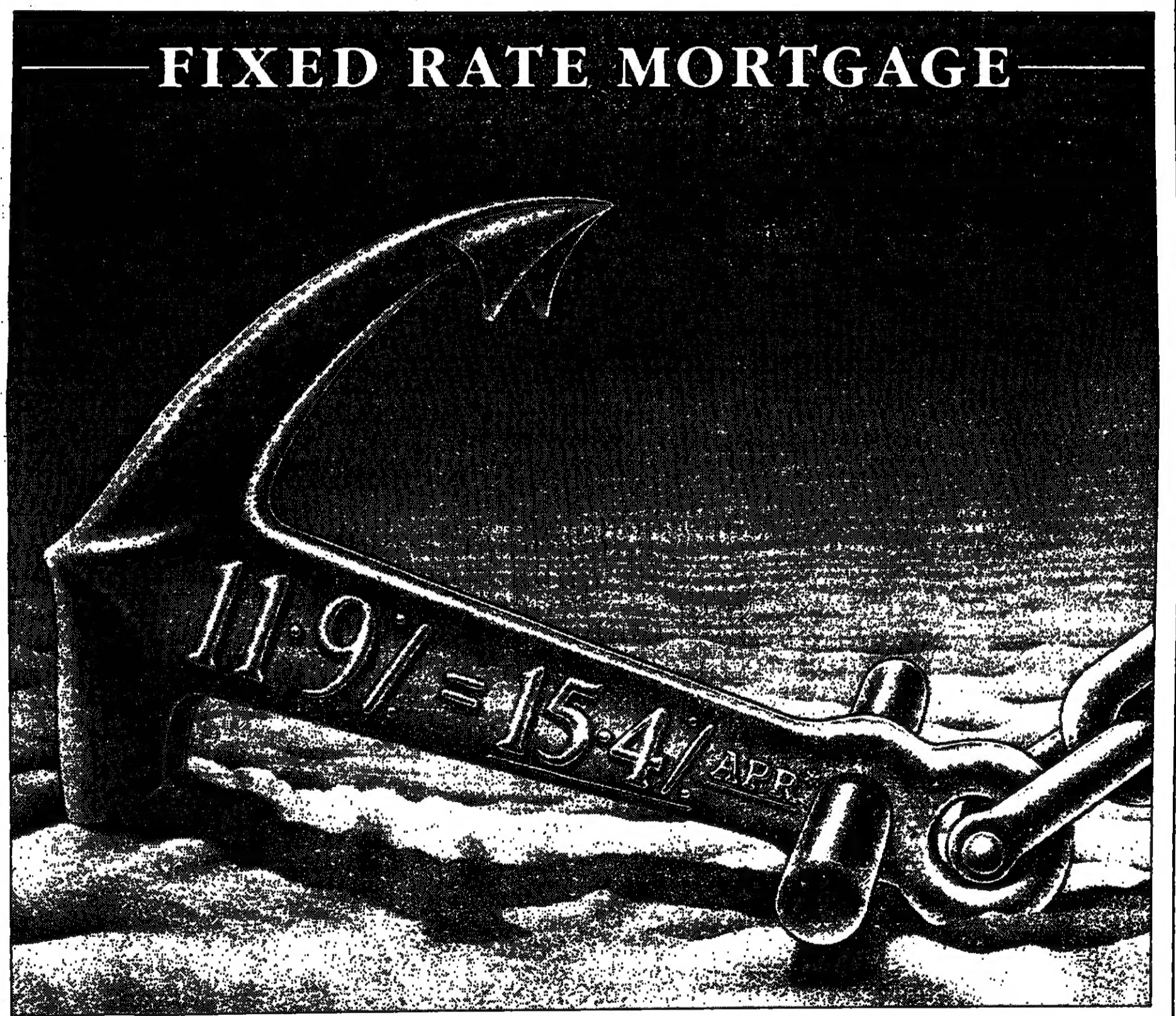
nearly all in the South-West, are also trapped and shot each year by agriculture ministry veterinary officers to prevent them spreading tuberculosis to cattle. Less than 20 per cent of slaughtered badgers turn out to have TB, however.

A badger's set usually consists of a main set surrounded by an outlying network of tunnels and burrows, often used by rabbits and foxes. The NCC found a high level of human disturbance of sets, with the main sets, where the badgers mostly live, the worst affected: 15.7 per cent of all those sets had been blocked and 10.5 per cent had been dug.

A set is defined as "any structure or place occupied or used by a badger for shelter or protection". Sir Nicholas Bonsor, chairman of the British Field Sports Society, said: "While some sets are well known and are obviously occupied, badgers can be found in a whole variety of places which are not obviously sets. Under present proposals anyone who innocently interfered with these could face the risk of prosecution."



An inquisitive badger seen in an Essex garden at night



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# Bizarre turns in Winnie Mandela trial put judicial system in the dock



Seipet shifted blame for son's murder to "racist regime"

From GAVIN BELL  
in JOHANNESBURG

HOVERING beside Winnie Mandela and three others in the dock at the supreme court in Johannesburg this week was a fifth shadowy figure: the South African judicial system itself.

Whatever the substance of allegations against Mrs Mandela, the image of the judiciary has been tarnished by the state's apparent inability or unwillingness to protect key witnesses from brazen and brutal intimidation. Before grinding to a premature halt, the proceedings raised more questions than they answered.

Why did 18 months elapse before Mrs Mandela was charged with the alleged offences? Are leading political figures in the "new" South Africa above the law? In a belated attempt to

restore faith in the system, the government has started reviewing legislation to provide more effective protection for witnesses. Ironically, it may result in the imposition of measures deemed repressive by the anti-apartheid movement.

Kobie Coetsee, the justice minister, made the point when he announced the review on Thursday. "Provisions for protective custody have in the past been viciously attacked as unfair, and many a time people have demanded their repeal. It is clear that there is a change of heart, which is to be welcomed."

Dave Dalling, the liberal Democratic Party spokesman on justice, points out that more than 3,000 people have died in political violence in recent years and only a handful of trials have taken place, largely because of intimidation.

The state's abysmal record in this regard threatens the judicial system with collapse, he says.

Despite far-reaching political and social reforms, the judicial system has changed little since Mrs Mandela's husband, Nelson, railed against "white man's justice" at his treason trial 30 years ago. There are many forms of justice in South Africa, ranging from Roman-Dutch law dispensed by an entirely white bench to so-called people's courts in black communities which summarily condemn elderly women to death for alleged witchcraft and others to flogging and worse for common criminal offences.

Enforcing the first and turning a blind eye to the second is an undermanned police force tainted by things given to inflicting grievous bodily harm on supposed suspects. Above them all is a

tricameral parliament from which blacks are excluded. No court may question the validity of any law passed by this racist institution. Mr Justice Trengove, a former appeal court judge, went to the heart of the matter two years ago when he said the sooner the unqualified sovereignty of parliament was done away with, the better.

Both the government and the African National Congress subscribe to the supremacy of an independent judiciary in a post-apartheid era, supported by a bill of rights enshrined in a new constitution. In the meantime, both are bound by an anachronistic system riddled with deficiencies. The absence of black judges is not entirely due to economic and educational deprivation which has produced only three black senior counsel. There is political resistance

to a multiracial bench from those aspiring to sit on it. Justice Moloto of the Black Lawyers' Association says: "Black judges would still be called in to administer laws they had no part in making, and about 90 per cent of these laws are unjust. They would be cogs in the machinery of their own oppression."

Mrs Mandela's trial has also raised questions about the ANC's commitment to justice. Shortly after three of its members were implicated in the abduction of a key witness, it produced the mother of a youth murdered by one of Mrs Mandela's bodyguards at a stage-managed press conference to display new-found solidarity with the ANC. Mananki Seipet, surrounded by ANC activists, duly shifted the blame for her son's death from Mrs Mandela to the "racist regime" in a

statement which conflicted sharply with previous reported comments in which she expressed bitterness about the ANC.

This absurd pantomime, dangerously close to infringing the sub-judice rule (Mrs Seipet is a witness in the Mandela trial), followed the arrogant behaviour of ANC "marshals" who strutted around the court this week in makeshift military fatigues, abusing journalists and other observers.

● Jail nostalgia: Mr Mandela said he missed some of the prison officials who guarded him during his 27 years in jail and had kept in touch with them since his release. "Although the policy itself was bad... there were wardens and officials who really stood out in their concern for us, whose views were that we were human beings," he told the anti-apartheid weekly, *New Nation*. (Reuters)

## Conservative net tightens in campaign to oust Yeltsin

From MARY DEJEVSKY in MOSCOW

CONSERVATIVE opposition groups tried yesterday to force an emergency meeting of the full Russian parliament with a view to engineering the removal of Boris Yeltsin, the president of the Russian Federation. Their attempt, backed by a petition with nearly 200 signatures, was the latest move in a virulent campaign designed to exclude him from office.

The conservative challenge came a day after the Russian parliament decided not to approve a nationwide agreement to introduce price increases on most goods. Mr Yeltsin had refused to recommend the draft agreement, arguing that it would encourage people to blame the republic leadership, rather than the central government, for what will be a deeply unpopular measure.

Evidence that the net is tightening

around Mr Yeltsin has grown over the past week, after a month of rabid anti-Yeltsin propaganda in the conservative press. On Wednesday, the last remaining member of his original economic team, Gennadi Filshin, resigned after revelations about shady financial dealings.

His resignation came in the wake of a sensational interview given by Valentin Pavlov, the new Soviet prime minister, in which he accused unspecified forces of plotting to destabilise the Soviet economy with the help of certain Soviet banking institutions and private Western banks. His scarcely credible accusations claimed that the beneficiaries of the alleged plot would have been "supporters of rapid privatisation" — in other words, those like Mr Yeltsin who back radical economic reform.

On Thursday the Moscow daily newspaper, *Moskovskaya Pravda*, run by the city's Communist party, reprinted Mr Pavlov's interview in full. The republication of an interview, already published elsewhere, was a clear signal that the Moscow Communist party wanted to bring it to wider notice. This week's issue of the Soviet Communist party's journal entitled — without intended irony — *Glasnost* made sure that the allegations of corruption and criminality did not stop at Mr Filshin. The magazine quoted someone described as a "senior Moscow criminal investigator" as saying that both Mr Yeltsin and Ivan Silayev, his prime minister, employed members of the so-called Chechen mafia as part of their bodyguard.

The Chechens, an ethnic group from the north Caucasus, are frequently accused of dominating the ruthless Moscow mafia, but no one has produced convincing evidence that a mafia-like structure actually exists. Some suspect that it has been invented to distract attention from crime endemic in state agencies.

Yesterday's insistent call for an emergency meeting of the full Russian parliament suggests that the conservatives think they are now strong enough to engineer Mr Yeltsin's downfall. A full parliament, the Congress of People's Deputies, is the only body which can oust the republic's president.

But they must act before March 17, the day set for the nationwide referendum on the future of the Russian Federation. Voters in the Russian Federation will then also decide on establishing a full executive presidency which would, if approved, strengthen Mr Yeltsin's mandate and make his removal more difficult. The date mooted for the emergency congress is February 25.

## Havel plan to open embassy in Vilnius

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PRESIDENT Havel of Czechoslovakia said yesterday that he planned to open a mission in the Soviet republic of Lithuania that would deal with political, economic, cultural and other information and link the foreign ministries of the two countries.

The announcement came as the leaders of Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia gathered to sign agreements strengthening their ties within the new political and economic landscape of Eastern Europe. The summit was called to formalise co-operation among the three neighbouring countries in trade, a sector that for decades was controlled by membership in the Soviet-dominated Comecon trade bloc.

The meeting in Visegrad, Hungary, was held between the three presidents and their three prime ministers to achieve their "total integration into the European political, economic, security and legislative order".

President Gorbachev and Jozsef Antall of Hungary, President Havel and Marian Calfa of Czechoslovakia, and Lech Walesa, the Polish president, and Jan Krzystof Bielecki, his prime minister, met to discuss regional security issues and to sign two declarations that will allow the three former communist countries to co-operate as they work to establish stable democratic institutions.

Mr Antall emphasised that the alliance would not be anti-Soviet: "This is not directed against any country which is not a member". He said Hungary would work for closer co-operation with the parliamentary committee of Lithuania and consider other forms of diplomatic co-operation. The meeting would also serve to hasten European unity. "The summit can help co-ordinate our political and economic policies so that all three can integrate into European organisation more smoothly," he said.

Mr Havel said that Prague supports the legal authorities in the defiant Soviet Baltic republics. Mr Walesa, on the other hand, said only that Poland was ready to open missions where they might be necessary, but the issue was not under discussion in Warsaw.

The Visegrad alliance comes only days before a meeting in Budapest to discuss the dissolution of Comecon and the winding up of the Warsaw Pact.

President Gorbachev has offered to wind up the military elements of the pact two months earlier than the April 1 deadline set by Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland.

## Goddess of poetry awarded a seat on the board

BACK in the 1980s, the business heroes of the United States were sleek and steady masters of the deal, champions of ruthless power play and exponents of mutual metaphor. J.R. Ewing, for example, did not win his millions and his mistresses by hobnobbing with artists or getting in touch with his emotions. Donald Trump would never have been asked to identify, say, a sonnet.

Now, a change appears to have happened. American businessmen are snap-



Trump: an artist in business but not attracted to the muses

ping up a book called *Love and Profit: the Art of Caring Leadership*, by James Autry. His point is that "the old, kick-ass way of managing" is counter-productive. Bosses will get much better results by showing they are "engaging, warm, supportive human beings", says Mr Autry, who is president of a big magazine company.

But that is not all. Mr Autry writes poetry and persuaded other bards of the boardroom to join him in celebrating the joy and pain of executive life. The results are published in *Love and Profit*.

We are not talking about the upbeat rhymes of salesmen's gatherings. Nor is their verse the triumphalist doggerel of earlier "vocational poets". Mr Autry and his fellow "business poets" plumb the darker depths of the soul. Take, for example, his *On Firing a Salesman*, which starts: "It's like a little murder, taking his life, his reason for getting on the train..."

The muses are touching the business world in other ways, too. Managers are resorting to "corporate comedy" to lighten their relations with subordinates and reinforce that human touch. Some "lucky" types are noting that their Japanese

rivals do not apparently share a taste in poetry and comedy. "Henry Ford must be turning in his grave," said one.

Name the most famous underground line in the world. Britons might cite the Piccadilly line, Parisians might go for the Neully-Vincennes track, as celebrated by Yves Montand, but Americans and jazz lovers everywhere would say the A Train.

In the 1940s, the A Train entered folklore, zooming up to Manhattan from Brooklyn like a rocket, taking the evening crowds to the ballrooms of Harlem in its high renaissance. And of course, it gave its name to *Take the A Train*, the signature tune of Duke Ellington's band.

Harlem has long since wilted, but the A Train has continued to clatter uptown day and night. Now, however, the subway authority has decided that the express should disappear, along with some others, as part of an exercise aimed at saving a paltry \$4 million (\$2 million) a year.

A coalition of commuters, historians, musicians and politicians are demanding life for the A Train. "Nobody is going to

say that he will emphasise that the country's economic reform, which has increased prices sixfold, is a "shock therapy per excellence". He also said that he would be telling Britain that, despite Bulgaria's scrupulous observance of the United Nations sanctions against Iraq, which have cost the country dear, "the fact is that we have not been compensated as envisaged by the UN resolutions. We hope the British government will support us and put in a good word for us with the European Community and the

Group of 24 (Western countries helping Eastern Europe)", he said.

The Gulf war has aggravated Bulgaria's economic plight. Sanctions have meant that it has had to forgo \$1.8 billion (\$900 million) of Iraqi debt due to be repaid in oil. The collapse of the eastern bloc trading system, Comecon, has also meant the loss of cheap Soviet oil and private motorists are restricted to a monthly ration of a seven gallons. An accumulated foreign debt of \$11 billion, which Bulgaria cannot pay, has also ended all credit.

However, President Zhelev said that he hoped that this restriction would be lifted. "We need several hundred million dollars urgently to give a boost to the economy and I hope the West will look favourably on our request now that we have signed a letter of intent with the IMF."

President Zhelev said despite the recent price increases he felt "most people realise that this is the right path to follow. The question is how much they can endure. I hope and pray that there will be no demonstration or violence, because this is the only way. Unrest would torpedo our reform and nothing should stop them." He said because economic reforms were under way it was "unrealistic" to hold a general election in May as envisaged by the terms of the coalition government agreement.

Referring to the Gulf conflict, President Zhelev said that Bulgaria had received "no response" from Saudi Arabia over its offers of an anti-chemical warfare unit and medical personnel to help the anti-Iraq coalition, but he said that negotiations with the United States were under way over the offer. President Zhelev, aged 55, personifies the reasons why Bulgaria has been forgotten. He is small, softly spoken and modest, as the continued living in his old flat, frequent power cuts notwithstanding, reveals. He is a dissident philosopher during the Zhivkov years but never jailed.

From 1988 Dr Zhelev became openly involved in dissident activity, and after the collapse of orthodox communism in Bulgaria in November 1989 he emerged as leader of a varied opposition coalition called the Union of Democratic Forces.

For the next year Bulgarian politicians argued and economic reforms were delayed. However, in that time, the communists were re-elected to power as the Socialist party and Dr Zhelev, after months of political paralysis, was elected president by the parliament. On December 20 last year a coalition government was formed and economic reforms began to be implemented two weeks ago.

In an effort to convince the West that Bulgaria deserves help and recognition, President Zhelev

said that he will emphasise that the country's economic reform, which has increased prices sixfold, is a "shock therapy per excellence". He also said that he would be telling Britain that, despite Bulgaria's scrupulous observance of the United Nations sanctions against Iraq, which have cost the country dear, "the fact is that we have not been compensated as envisaged by the UN resolutions. We hope the British government will support us and put in a good word for us with the European Community and the

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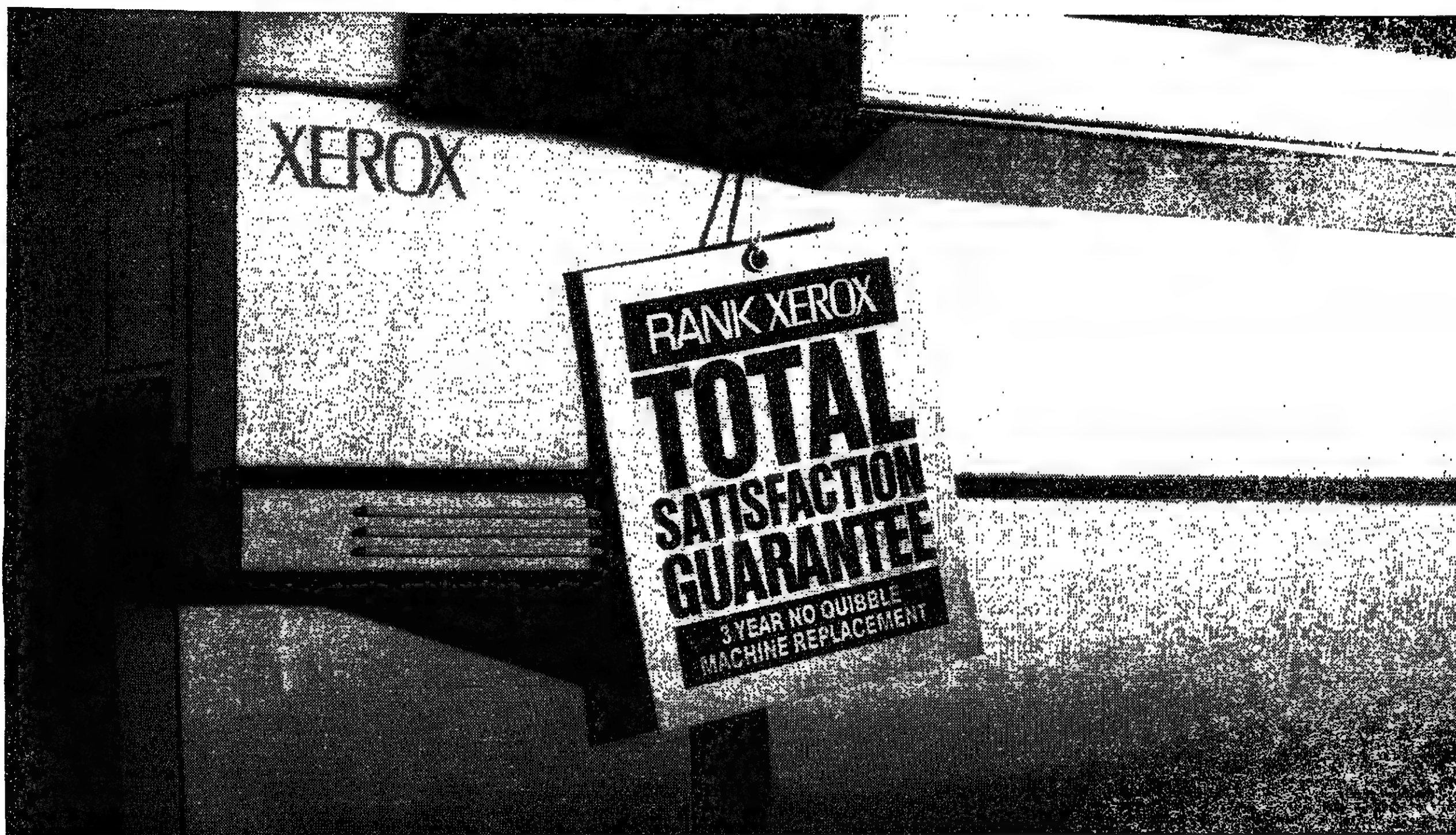
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## SADDAM TRIES IT ON

Has President Saddam Hussein blinked at last? Or is his latest manoeuvre, as President Bush said yesterday, "a cruel hoax", a last desperate attempt to buy time, forestall a ground offensive and trap the allies into intractable negotiations? Yesterday's statement by Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council declared Iraq's "readiness to deal with" UN resolution 660, "including the clause related to Iraqi withdrawal."

Had Iraq really accepted 660, the initial euphoria in Baghdad and foreign capitals would have been justified. An Iraqi withdrawal would have had to be rapidly implemented, vigilantly enforced and irreversible. Whatever doubts might have survived about leaving Iraq's military power relatively intact and Saddam still in power, there could have been no choice for the allies but to cease firing and eventually go home.

Saddam has done no such thing. Resolution 660 is unambiguous in its demand that Iraq withdraw all its forces "immediately and unconditionally" to pre-August 2 positions in Iraq. Instead, the RCC statement makes withdrawal incumbent on a host of conditions. Only the first, a ceasefire to enable troops to be pulled back, could have been accepted as part of the mechanics of a complete, immediate, Iraqi withdrawal.

The linkages demanded by Iraq are those of a victor out to dictate terms for the future of the entire Middle East. They include: withdrawal of all allied forces and weapons from the Gulf within a month of the ceasefire; Israeli withdrawal from "occupied Palestine"; Syria and Lebanon (to be enforced by UN sanctions); the abrogation of all UN resolutions on Iraq "as though all this has not happened"; cancellation of Iraq's debts and allied financing of Iraq's postwar reconstruction; UN guarantees of "all Iraq's historical rights on land and in the sea" (which implicitly restates a claim to Kuwait); the participation of "national and Islamic forces" in Kuwait's political arrangements, which would exclude the legitimate al-Sabah ruling family; and the proclamation of the Gulf as a zone free "from any form of foreign military presence".

Iraq, in other words, is to be handed a

huge strategic victory by the international community in return for a short-term tactical defeat. This goes far beyond Iraq's familiar demands for linkage with the Palestinian question, again toughened yesterday. Not only would sanctions be lifted and Iraq financially compensated, but resolution 662 (which declared Iraq's annexation of Kuwait void) would be cancelled, as would resolutions holding Iraq responsible for atrocities in Kuwait and damage to other countries. The allies would be required to stay out of the Gulf permanently.

Are these demands intended simply as rhetorical window-dressing for domestic consumption, to cover the nakedness of a strategic decision to admit defeat? The reference to 660 could be read as preparing public opinion for a climbdown, but against that must be set the effrontery — and implausibility — of Iraq's conditions. Saddam must be truly divorced from reality if he believed these terms would be accepted. More probably he calculates that, after insisting for nearly 200 days that Kuwait is Iraq's 19th province, the novelty of Iraq's use of the word "withdrawal" would alone be enough to unhinge the alliance.

Saddam deserves full marks for timing but none for content. The Amiriyah bombing has created a wave of public sympathy which has already affected the mood of the UN security council, which yesterday discussed the Gulf for the first time since the allied counter-offensive began. The Soviet Union, singled out for praise in the communiqué, played host yesterday to Iran's foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, arrives tomorrow. The biggest land battle since 1945 is imminent. What better time to seduce with talk of talks?

Saddam has thoroughly overplayed his hand. An apparently moderate and reasonable offer might have unsettled the alliance, or at least forced a military pause. This display of megalomania will not. Western and Arab leaders alike have dismissed it out of hand. Saddam's "peace offer" should neither delay nor accelerate the land war. It only confirms its inevitability.

## LIFE AFTER POLL TAX: 4

A painful hiatus has arrived in the debate over the replacement of poll tax. Signals from Michael Heseltine's environment fortress in Marsham Street indicate that the predicted has come true: there is no fancy alternative to an early return to the rates as the basis of local taxation, while the hope that this could be hidden within a grand reform of local government is wildly optimistic. In a flurry of papers and options and face-saving formulas, Mr Heseltine's grand strategy is now down in the sand. His colleagues are exasperated and the Treasury is shaking its head with glee, always a bad sign for the future of good government. A revised way forward is urgent.

For once, such a way is clear. Mr Heseltine's brief from the cabinet was never realistic. Even had he proved a more decisive reformer than his nature, he had bitten off more than he can chew. The scheme, favoured by John Major and others, that a flat-rate charge based on poll-tax registers could survive alongside the rates was unrealistic. Such charges must be so low as to avoid costly rebates for the poor, but are thus not worth the high collection costs. If they are set high enough to be worth collecting, then like poll tax they require ever more costly rebates. This is catch-22. The poll tax was always a bad idea; it would be no less bad if spliced onto a revived rating system. The twin principles of accountability and payment for services must be met through the rates. It is as simple as that.

The cabinet must now come clean with its backbenches and supporters in the country, and do so before the May local elections. Nothing is to be gained and everything lost by delay. Mr Heseltine's task will be painful in the short run — he at least was not party to the shameful poll-tax cabinets of the late-1980s — but it will be quickly over. Summer will be warm and the electoral map will be busy with other diversions. Having thus

slain the dragon of poll tax, Mr Heseltine could get down to the more important and fascinating job of reforming local government, entrenching the principles that should underlie his fiscal changes in a revitalised local democracy. This cannot be done in a matter of weeks. He is in effect conducting a one-man royal commission enquiry into the future of half of Britain's government. He is trying to do this with absurd speed, in between abolishing the poll tax and clearing up the Gulf.

When Mr Heseltine began his enquiry, he rightly offered to consult all and sundry, including the Opposition. Not since the Redcliffe-Maud commission of 1969 (which sat for three years) has such radicalism been promised. Nor is a serious adjustment of local government after a quarter century unreasonable. Yet interest groups are being rushed in and out of Marsham Street with hardly a minute to catch their breath or convey their message. None of the department's position papers are being revealed to the world outside. Mr Heseltine's head is known to be spinning with local cabinets, redrawn boundaries, county boroughs, elected mayors. Education spending is skidding left, right and centre. While the cardinal reformist principles of devolution, local identity and democratic accountability appear to be to the fore in Mr Heseltine's mind, that is all that can be gleaned about them.

Mr Major should now calm everything down. He should take hold of Mr Heseltine, get the poll tax off his back and give him a clear remit and sensible deadline to come up with ideas on local government reform. The debate on this must take place in a wider forum than the confines of the environment department itself. There should be a green paper followed by six months of thorough discussion. Mr Heseltine's heart is in the right place on all this. Where is his head?

## TOO SHARP WITH SHORT

Clare Short has been forced to stand down as Opposition frontbench "spokesperson" (as she would have it) on social security because of her publicly stated views on the Gulf war. The Labour leader, Neil Kinnock, told her she should stick to her brief, speaking only on social security policy. If she wanted to speak freely about the conduct of the Gulf campaign, she should return to the backbenches. This was a mistake.

Mr Kinnock, as he showed in his earlier treatment of John Prescott, is in no mood to tolerate even mild dissent from the shadow cabinet line. Ms Short eschewed ambition and resigned. Joan Ruddock, apparently in a similar fix, knuckled under and agreed to stick to her transport portfolio.

Neither Ms Short nor Mrs Ruddock should have been put in that invidious position. What Ms Short wants to say is an honourable and legitimate part of public debate on war aims. Members of Parliament are entitled to ask whether utilities such as electricity and water are proper military targets, even if the answer is that they must be. Only the most gung-ho electors will be offended by a Labour frontbencher questioning American bombing strategy, particularly when plenty of American politicians, indeed apparently plenty of generals in the Gulf, are doing so.

That a senior Labour politician should have to be corralled into the cross-party line

by Labour's terror of being thought unpatriotic is a sad comment on Westminster's political culture. The thesis that collective responsibility must extend to every view a politician might express for fear of the public doubting that party's cohesion is absurd. At least in government, the absurdity serves to maintain discipline behind the actions of the state. No such need exists in opposition.

Evidence that politicians have consciences which sometimes prick is reassuring to the electorate. In the aftermath of the Amiriyah disaster, some public questioning, even anguish, was timely. A sensible leader would have welcomed a display of it from a colleague. Ms Short and Mr Kinnock do not apparently differ about limiting the war aims to those defined in UN resolution 660. Mr Kinnock is no more responsible than Ms Short for the selection of bombing targets. To question their selection in specific instances is hardly a challenge to his authority since in this matter he has none.

If the challenge perceived by him was not to his authority, what was it? It must have been regarded by him as a threat to the carefully cultivated perception of Labour party unity. There may be newspapers eager to fall upon such slight evidence of a Labour split over the war. Mr Kinnock should have had the strength of mind to ignore them, and bring a dash of lively colour back to his front bench as soon as possible.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Telephone 071-782 5000

### Dilemma of remaining in the ERM

From Professor Emeritus R. Morris

Sir, The irony of the letter from Messrs Congdon et al. (February 13) is exquisite. Ever since the ideas of their school of thought took over, the economy has become more unstable and more difficult to manage. There is hope that the ideas are in retreat, but we are still suffering the aftermath.

The reason why we are in the exchange rate mechanism with a rate that is by now somewhat (not vastly) overvalued vis à vis the other members is that, for reasons that had nothing to do with economics, it took us so long to get in. In the meantime, the abandonment of credit controls, apparently for ideological reasons, contributed to the extraordinary and unnecessary resurgence of inflation in the UK ahead of Europe.

Now we seem to be in the horrid situation that we may not be able to undertake a sufficient cut in interest rates while remaining in the ERM. But we are going to stay in the ERM, so we have to find a solution.

Your economics editor, in a lucid comment last October, went to the heart of the matter, when he wrote that the fiscal and credit policies that were a vital part of Keynesian demand management had been thrown away, leaving policy-makers with only the interest rate and exchange rate to influence a multiplicity of objectives.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBIN MARKIS,  
Lingard House, Chiswick Mall, W4,  
February 14.

From Mr Julian Amery, MP for Brighton Pavilion (Conservative)

Sir, Sir Alan Walters and his colleagues in the letter of February 13 and Sir Alan's article today have opened an important debate. Britain is in a recession, though whether a slump is in the making is arguable. Clearly, however, a half per cent reduction in interest rates, though a useful reconnaissance to test market reaction, cannot affect the situation.

What is needed to offset the excessive cost to industry of high interest rates is a sharp reduction of these by at least 2 per cent. The question is, when should this beneficial injection be administered?

Confidence is the most important element in economic activity, so a large cut in interest rates in the immediate future could well be interpreted as showing a lack of resolve to fight inflation. Would it not be wiser to wait a month or two until the rate of inflation has actually come down, instead of being headed in the right direction?

Sir Alan has called for courage on the part of the government. May I suggest that more courage is needed to stay in the ERM now than to opt out. The real task is to make ERM work effectively, and on economic rather than political considerations.

### Drawing the line

From Mr John O'Connor

Sir, Your report (February 5) on the "resumption" of drawing classes at the Royal College of Art, was headed "Tradition broken as the art of drawing comes to life". A more apt title would have been "Tradition returns to the RCA".

Any RCA graduate of the 30s reading the piece must have shared my amusement, knowing that students from every department of the college were then required to attend drawing and life classes. Several studios were allocated in the early evenings, with model and tutor, to accommodate students who were unable to attend at any other time.

### NHS trust status

From Mr Martin A. Nelson

Sir, April 1 will see the introduction of trust status for my hospital. While the management clearly believes that a new era for the health service is dawning, I, after 21 years and three reorganisations, am less sanguine.

Since its inception in 1948, the NHS has been unable to fulfil its intentions — namely, to provide a comprehensive health care system for all at the time of need without payment. Surgical waiting lists and outpatient waiting time have been a continual embarrassment to successive governments and become one of the measures used to elevate the success of the service.

As time has gone on, several changes have made the task of providing an efficient health service more and more difficult. These include the demographic time bomb now exploding (50 per cent of my patients are over 70); the technological revolution — the most frequent operation I perform, joint replacement, did not exist when I qualified

### Right to know

From Mr John Hayes

Sir, In his winning entry for *The Times* 1990 Law Awards ("Should the law restrict the right to know?", Law, January 29), Mr Christopher Whitty employs a dangerous logic as the foundation for his assertion that patients should be denied access to medical information about themselves. The "right to know" he writes, is a "fiction" which is "established in none of the classical definitions of the rights of man".

No doubt it is difficult to formulate a general right to know applicable to all circumstances, as is clear from the correspondence on Mr Whitty's essay (February 5). But in the context of the doctor-patient relationship the patient's right to know is derived from other fundamental rights, namely, the right to self-determination and freedom from undue influence (and therefore non-consensual) bodily interference.

Patients must be given access to

The Bundesbank has increased

Deutschemark interest rates for domestic reasons, but rather than raise them further would welcome a realignment of the European currencies. But, if I am not mistaken, their request here is primarily directed to the Bank of France. Would a realignment be in the economic interest of France or is French resistance to the idea based on political grounds?

Should we not join with France and other colleagues in the ERM to see whether we could not meet the German proposal to realign all our currencies downward in relation to the Deutschemark by, say, 5 to 10 per cent?

Your distinguished correspondents write, of course, as economists. But in the real world do we not have to take account of politics as well, since politics engage confidence and confidence is the intangible factor in all economic calculations?

Yours faithfully,  
JULIAN AMERY,  
112 Eaton Square, SW1,  
February 14.

From Mr Alfred Sherman

Sir, The controversy over interest rates indicates a depressing inability by our policy-makers and opinion-formers to analyse or learn from experience. In 1976 Denis Healey instituted a neo-Keynesian monetary squeeze at the prompting of the International Monetary Fund, in the hope of reducing inflationary pressures and the resulting imbalance of payments.

In 1979 the incoming government inherited Healey's squeeze and continued it, albeit with changed rhetoric, without tackling the underlying misallocation of resources. Healey thereupon denounced the squeeze of Thatcherite monetarism, supported by 364 tame economists who had supported it under its previous doyen.

Early in 1985 Nigel Lawson decided to buy popularity by relaxing the squeeze, again without tackling the underlying misallocation of resources. The result, as observers at the time, including Professor Congdon and myself, pointed out, was to precipitate a boom whose inflationary consequences would be expected after a lag of two to three years. This inevitably provoked a new Healey squeeze, with 1978-80 rhetoric, because no one had done any thinking in the meantime.

In 1974, Keith Joseph initiated the Thatcher revolution by admitting, "we were wrong". Unfortunately, that is the only particular so far in which history is failing to repeat itself.

Yours etc.,  
ALFRED SHERMAN,  
10 Gerald Road, SW1.

It is absurd to suggest that a graduate from an art college should not continue to learn to draw in postgraduate studies. No professional instrumentalist or singer would ever discontinue singing, learning and practice, or a student of dance his or her barre exercises.

The practice of drawing continues long after the period of formal art school education. With regular self-criticism one creates one's own "master class" and continues to learn.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN O'CONNOR,  
Craigmore,  
Parton, by Castle Douglas,  
Stewartry of Kirkcubright.

I learned how to do it after I became a consultant; and the reduction in nursing hours to 37½ a week from 40 a week 10 years ago — nurses' salaries account for 70 per cent of the salary bill of the NHS.

It is not surprising that neither the consultants staff, or the nurses, or the ancillary staff supported a change in status which has no possible chance of addressing these problems. What the NHS needs are more and better targeted resources which no amount of reorganising and efficiency can ever provide.

At a time when unlimited finances are available, albeit for a war, we are reminded that money can always be found when the need is deemed to be great. Perhaps when this war is over we will reconsider our priorities and find more resources for our sick, our children and the elderly.

Yours faithfully,  
M. A. NELSON  
(Consultant orthopaedic surgeon),  
The General Infirmary at Leeds,  
Great George Street,  
Leeds, West Yorkshire.

information concerning their lives and their health. This cannot be said to be a "legal absurdity". What is absurd is the suggestion that to withhold information from patients will make "no difference to them at all".

What if a patient is kept in the dark about alternative treatment options or possible side-effects of the medical procedure recommended by the doctor? This will deny the patient the opportunity to make an informed decision.

What if a doctor makes an unsubstantiated allegation and circulates this to other professional colleagues (a practice which Mr Whitty appears to support)? The patient will have no means of challenging the doctor's "unproven" judgement.

Mr Whitty's essay acts as a warning to the law in England.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

### Reflections on freeze and thaw

From Mr Kevin Wellman

Sir, I was appalled and amazed at your leader of February 14, "Paying the piper", which "advises" householders on how to deal with "cowboy" plumbers.

Are you suggesting that a little old lady dealing with a burst pipe or a blocked toilet should go out and buy a DIY plumbing book and swot up on 15mm elbows and compression joints before calling a plumber? If so, it follows that it may be an equally good idea to take a copy of "The Home Doctor" into hospital and display it on the bedside, in readiness for the consultant's round.

The art of certain aspects of plumbing — such as joining pipes together — is simpler now than it has ever been, but the technicalities involved have become vastly more complex. Plumbers no longer wipe joints, but it is the current water byelaws which prohibit them from doing so, not their lack of craftsmanship. As there are no controls over the manufacture and sale of DIY plumbing fittings, a purchaser could contravene the water byelaws by installing fittings not listed by the Water Research Centre.

Cowboy plumbers are always with us and they tend to make the headlines during arctic weather conditions. This situation is exacerbated by the low priority which householders give to their plumbing systems and their failure to question exorbitant bills.

If plumbing is in "decadent decline" it may be because of the government's refusal to acknowledge that it is a craft that should be

### Baltic independence

From Dr Michael Ryan

Sir, In your leading article of February 6 you rightly castigate as folly President Gorbachev's decree which declares illegal the Lithuanian referendum on independence. Some idea of the extent to which ordinary Russians may share that judgement is conveyed by data published in the February 3 issue of the weekly *Moscow News*, reporting the results of opinion polling carried out in Leningrad.

On four occasions interviewees had been asked to express agreement or disagreement with the statement: "The Baltic republics must be prevented from leaving the Soviet Union by force". When first asked in September 1989, 56 per cent of Leningraders disagreed, but the proportion rose sharply to reach

### Future of Eritrea

From Mr Louis FitzGibbon

Sir, Talks take place in London next week on US-sponsored efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Ethiopia/Eritrea dispute. The Eritreans will doubtless be asked to accept some kind of loose "federation", with a vague promise of a referendum in several years' time.

However, after 30 years of bitter fighting it is unlikely that the Eritreans will do other than insist upon a referendum on independence now, and indeed no one could expect them to trust the Mengistu regime.

While the West seems to have little time for Eritrean independence it is staunch in supporting the aspirations of Lithuania. Is that because the Baltic states are in the news and there is too little interest in the Horn of Africa?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
LOUIS FITZGIBBON,  
8 Portland Place,  
Brighton,  
East Sussex,  
February 13.

### Motorway safety

From Mr Andrew Bradford

Sir, Having recently motored through ten European countries, I would like to raise a point concerning motorway central reservations. We seem to have concentrated our expenditure on ensuring that nothing grows there, by removing topsoil and replacing with stone chips.

By complete contrast, continental central reservations have nearly complete hedges of shrubs within the barriers which can be attractive, are clearly of environmental benefit and, most importantly, all but eliminate the blinding glare of on-coming headlights from the opposite carriageway. This contributes to safety and should be encouraged.

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW BRADFORD,  
Estate Office, Kincardine,  
Kincardine O'Neil,  
Aboyne,  
Aberdeenshire,  
February 14.

which tends to give favourable treatment to medical opinion and practice in setting medical disclosure standards. There is an alternative to the paternalistic view of doctors recording information for their "own use" and keeping it secret in their patients' "interests". It is one which sees the doctor-patient relationship as one founded upon mutual trust and shared decision-making.

In this regard, the medical insights of the essay are indeed informative. They serve to demonstrate the pressing need for a widening of the perspectives of medical education, with trainee doctors encouraged to respect the importance of their patients' right to know.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN HAYES,  
The Free University of Berlin,  
Law Department,  
Boltzmannstrasse 3,  
1000 Berlin 33, Germany.  
February 5.

stringently controlled by statutory regulation. Rather than "soldering in place the professional mystique of plumbing", such regulation would release the householder from the oppression of the unscrupulous cowboy.

Yours faithfully,  
KEVIN WELLMAN  
(Technical manager),  
The Institute of Plumbing,  
64 Station Lane,  
Hornchurch, Essex.

From Mr R. A. Philips

Sir, When I was about ten, in the 1960s, my younger brother and I found a way of earning extra pocket money during icy periods. We would call on neighbours armed with a shovel and brush and clear the snow in front of their houses and also the pavement.

Are there no Scout groups or similar organisations looking for ways to raise money? We cannot expect the local authorities to clear every pavement: they have enough problems with the main roads. Have we become so totally dependent on the "authorities" that we cannot look after ourselves and our neighbours any more?

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD PHILIPS,  
174 Effra Road, Wimbledon, SW19.

From Mr Ian Shanks

Sir, Have you received any reports of phenomena of the "crop-circle" type in these snowy times?

Yours sincerely,  
I. F. SHANKS,  
41 Devenay Road, Stratford, E15.

87 per cent in January of this year. Even amongst those who expressed confidence in the president of the USSR, 73 per cent now disagreed while, unsurprisingly, among those who had no confidence in him the figure was 93 per cent.

Furthermore, relatively little variation now exists between the responses of people in the four age-bands and eight socio-occupational categories for which separate figures are given. It is particularly striking that out of the military personnel surveyed 79 per cent opposed the use of force in this connection.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL RYAN,  
University College of Swansea,  
Department of Political Theory and Government,  
Singleton Park,  
Swansea, West Glamorgan,  
February 8.

### A place for S Africa

From Mr Edward Garnier

Sir, After spending three weeks last September in South Africa meeting political leaders representing all shades of opinion, ranging from Koos van der Merwe of the Conservatives to Nelson Mandela of the ANC, I came back with the impression that although there is considerable South African respect for this country, a return to the Commonwealth is on no one's agenda (Letters, February 6). What third-world South Africa desperately needs is massive western financial assistance to develop its education and health-care systems.

One in three mothers delivering children at the main maternity hospital in Soweto has AIDS; huge numbers of young blacks can neither read nor write. First-world South Africa, for all its riches, cannot afford to deal with the problem on its own. Sanctions on credit must therefore be speedily removed.

To have South Africa back in the Commonwealth might make some South Africans feel good; but I suspect that what would make all South Africans feel good (and citizens of the same country) would be to see a multi-racial Springbok rugby side or a leading soccer team, such as the Soweto Cheffains, returning to the United Kingdom. Yours faithfully,  
EDWARD GARNIER,  
1 Brick Court, Temple, EC4.

### Divorce and the church

From Mr Jeremy Moiser

Sir, May I contribute to the debate raised in your columns by Clifford Longley ("Making sense of divorce", February 9)?

As I understand it, the gospel writers agree that Jesus forbade divorce; that is, neither husband or wife may send his or her spouse away. No teaching of his is recorded, however, on the options open to one who is immorally sent away.

This gap is filled by Matthew (chapter 19) and Paul (1 Corinthians, 7) but in opposite directions. For the former, the dismissed partner remains committed to the marriage and therefore may not (at least ideally) remarry. For the latter, on the contrary, the dismissed partner is free to remarry.

This view of the New Testament is not new, but it has never been pursued by church authorities. A proper respect for Paul's teaching would offer a solution to many unhappy situations and enable the churches to develop a fuller theology of marital breakdown.

Yours faithfully,  
JEREMY MOISER,  
Glenhead Cottage,  
Glenhugh, Perthshire.

### Ebb or flow

From Mr N. R. Fallon

Sir, Water in the new London main will flow both ways at the same time. Mr Hoffman tells us (February 12). What is the rule of the main: keep to the left or keep to the right?

Yours faithfully,  
N. R. FALLON,  
2 Lansdowne, Carlton Drive, SW15.











### Home from home: Patrick Scott

# Bolting out of the mews

**JUDY FROSHAUG**



With half-term upon us, here is a guide to some family entertainments and outings around the country

## ENTERTAINMENT

## LONDON

● **Courage Mountain** and half-term party: Sunshone the clown with songs, games and talking drums, and lecture film tracing the story of Heidi, who escapes from an orphanage to run to the mountains in the first world war; today, 2.30pm; children £2, accompanied adults £2.50.

● **Barbican Children's Cinema Club**, Cinema 1, Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-638 4141). Annual membership £2.50, in advance or at the door.

● **Feed the On-site clown**, children's play area and set menu, £3.95. Closed Sat.

● **Boardwalk Restaurant Scho**, 18 Great Street, W1 (071-287 2051).

● **Free food**: Accompanied children under 4ft 6in eat free at Jigsaw and eight other Peter Lic restaurants.

● **Jigsaw**, 74 Askew Road, W12 (071-746 0397); other restaurants include Brahma, 147 Lupus Street, SW1; Le Ciel, 77 Lower Sloane Street, SW1; and the Pigeon, 606 Fulham Road, SW6.

● **Lancet** the Lion and variety turns: Annual adventures for three to six-year-olds; Feb 20, 3pm, £2.50, children £2.50.

● **Room Room**: Tales of the folk hero, suitable for four to seven-year-olds; Feb 21, 3pm, Feb 22, 11am; prices as above.

● **The Ugly Ducklings**: Hans Christian Andersen's story; Feb 22, 3pm, Feb 23, 11am; prices as above.

● **Little Angel Marionette Theatre**, 14 Dagmar Passage, off Cross Street, N1 (071-226 1787).

● **A Fish Called Brande**: The tale of two selfish sisters and their magic fish, presented by Boardwalk 25. Suitable for five to 12-year-olds.

● **Lynx Theatre**: *Hermes*, King Street, W8 (071-741 2311); today, 11am, £2.

● **Kingfisher Pond**: Ecological adventure story suitable for five to eight-year-olds; today, 2pm, 5pm, Feb 19-22, 11am, 2pm; on until Mar 23, £4 (£3.70 group bookings).

● **Pretend We're Friends**: A play about making friends for three to five-year-olds, performed by Cuckoo-silver children's theatre company with songs, story-telling and audience participation; Feb 19-22, 11.25am, 2.15pm, £2.20.

● **Pots Children's Theatre**, 240 The Broadway, Wimbledon, SW19 (071-543 4888).

● **Entertaining eating**: Restaurant with Purnell and Judy, clowns and magicians performing for children at the weekend.

● **Snickerdoodle's Ballroom**, 1 Dover Street, W1 (071-481 1188).

● **Animal has Children's menu** available in this jungle-style restaurant filled with surprising decorations, including a life-size model elephant, a jeep and a railway carriage dining area with safari videos screened in the windows.

● **Monkey Business**, 36 The Piazza, Jubilee Hall market, Covent Garden, WC2 (071-378 8803).

● **Unleash the Jovial Story-telling**, dancing, games and music-making for seven to 12-year-olds. Bring lunch; Feb 18, 10.30am-3.30pm, £3.

● **Turtle Mares Games**, stories and face paints; Feb 19, 10.30am-12 noon for three to six-year-olds, £2.

1.30-3.30pm for seven to 12-year-olds, £2.50.

● **Who's Afraid of Their Own Shadow?** Theatrical play-shop with puppets and music for four to 11-year-olds, presented by Upstream Children's Theatre, Feb 20, 2-3pm, £2.25.

● **Let's Go Bananas!** Acting, music, songs for under-fives; Feb 21-22, 10.30am-12 noon; £2.

● **Troyle Theatre**, 208 Oldham High Road, NW6 (071-328 1000); booking essential.

● **Frankie's Monster**: Frankie makes her own monster, and has problems keeping it hidden from her family. Adapted by Diane Samuels from the book by Vivian Alcock. For children over eight; Feb 18-17 and 21-23, 2.30pm; £3-£5 plus 10p temporary membership.

● **Stag of the Dunes**: The stage version of the adventures that begin when Barney discovers Stig, a Stone Age Briton living in a rubbish tip. Adapted by Richard Williams from Clive King's book. For children over five; Feb 19-20, 2.30pm; prices as above.

● **Unicorn Theatre**, 6 Great Newport Street, WC2 (071-336 3334).

● **Magic meal**: A popular restaurant with children on Sundays; recent magicians.

● **Zuma, Chelsea Children's**, Sloane Avenue, SW3 (071-225 1048).

● **For further information** about London restaurants and dining out with children, call Restaurant Switchboard on 01-688 8080.

● **Details of child-friendly restaurants** nationwide are in *And Baby Comes Too*, price £7.95, published by Egon Ronay and Al Presso Leisure Publications.

● **BRISTOL**

● **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe**: Stage version adapted by Glen Robins; Feb 18-20, 7pm, also 2pm Feb 19, 10.30am Feb 20; £5-£20, 20 per cent reduction for children.

● **The Horse and His Boy**: Feb 21-23, 7pm, also 2pm Feb 21, 10.30am Feb 22; prices as above.

● **Hippodrome**, St Augustine's Parade, BS1 4UZ (0272 299444).

● **CHELTERHAM**

● **Zippo's family circus**: A circus-free show with a Victorian theme. Tumblers, jugglers, clowning, trapeze acts and an exploding car; Feb 21-22, 2.30pm and 7pm; children £3.50, accompanied adults £2.50.

● **Cheltenham town hall**, Imperial Square, GL50 1QA (0242 572573).

● **EDINBURGH**

● **Jason and the Argonauts**: Classical adventure feature; today, 2pm; £1.50, children £1.

● **Finnhouse**, 88 Lothian Road (031-228 2888).

● **GLASGOW**

● **Alto** - *More Adventures* through the Looking Glass Adventure story with lots of new fantasy characters; today, 2pm and 7pm; £2.50, children £1.50, £7 family ticket for two adults and two children.

● **Paisley Arts Centre**, New Street, Paisley (041-887 1019).

● **LEEDS**

● **Chelville**: Pantomime with Jonathon Morris, Windsor Davis, Dame Hilda Brackett and Janet Dibley; today and Feb 18, 7.15pm; Feb 19-23, 2.30pm and 7.15pm; £5.50-£25.50, 20 per cent reduction for children.

# How to keep the children happy

Grand Theatre, 46 New Brigate (0532 45351).

● **LIVERPOOL**

● **Rainbow**: Stage version based on children's television series. Today, 11.30am, 2pm, 4.30pm; £5, £4.50 children.

● **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat**: Bill Kenwright's production of the Lloyd Webber show; Feb 18-23, Mon and Thurs 7.30pm, Tues, Wed, Thurs 2pm, Fri, Sat 2pm, 5pm, 8pm; £5.50-£25, £1.50 discount for children.

● **Empire Theatre**, Lime Street (051-708 1650).

● **MANCHESTER**

● **Melancholic**: Berloff's stage adaptation of Kafka in a production that fuses music, energetic acrobatics and mime. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, until Mar 2, 2.30pm-£4 (Mon £3.75).

● **Theatre day for students**: Feb 19, £3.50, £2.50 concessions.

● **Contact Theatre**, Oxford Road (061-274 4400/4477).

● **The Brave Little Toaster**: A film for the mechanical age, featuring the adventures of a characterful toaster, lamp, radio and vacuum cleaner as they travel through the

world. Today, 2pm; £1.75, children £1.

● **Mr Coconut**: Film from Hong Kong about the adventures of a businessman who comes into money. Feb 17, 12 noon, free.

● **Cornerhouse Arts Centre**, 70 Oxford Road (061-228 2483).

● **NORWICH**

● **The Tail of the White Cat**: Traditional African story of giants, jungles and magical singing birds, suitable for six to 11-year-olds. Performed by the Northern Black Light theatre company, with storyteller, masks, puppets, props and ultra-violet light show; Feb 18-23, 2.50pm, also 10.30am Feb 21 and 7.30pm Feb 22; £3.50, children £2.50.

● **Norwich Puppet Theatre**, St James, Whitthorn (0603 629821).

● **SHEFFIELD**

● **The King of Ireland's Boy**: Adventure play with 12 puppets and a large marionette stage; today, 2.30pm, 5pm; £2, children £1.

● **Grand Theatre**: Show devised and performed for children by the Sheffield Teachers' Pegasus Theatre Company; Feb 20-23, 7.30pm, also 2.30pm Feb 23.

● **Merlin Theatre**, 2 Meadowbank Road, Nether Edge (0742 551833).

## MUSEUMS

● **LONDON**

● **Science Museum**: "Yesterday's Children", for nine to 11-year-olds: chance to take part in a historical drama and experience life as a child worker in 19th century Britain. Advance booking essential.

● **Museum of the Moving Image**, South Bank, London SE1 (071-328 3535). Tues-Sun (and Mon during holidays), 10am-6pm, last admission 7pm; £4.95, child five-18 £3.50; family ticket (two adults and four children) £15; lecture £2.50, lecture and film £5.

● **RAF Museum**: More than 60 years of aircraft, plus an updated Gulf exhibition. Films, Tomado flight simulator, and hands-on exploration of an aircraft seat and other equipment.

● **RAF Museum**, Hendon, London NW9 (081-505 2265). Daily 10am-6pm, £3.50, child £1.80.

● **National Maritime Museum**: Family shows at the planetarium, Mon-Fri, 2.30pm and 3.30pm.

● **National Maritime Museum**, Greenwich, London SE10 (081-858 4422). Adult passport ticket £4.50, child £2.90, family ticket (two adults and up to five children) £25.90.

● **NATIONWIDE**

● **Liverpool Museum**: Tomorrow and Mon at the Maritime Museum, during ship in bottles. At the Museum of Labour History, "Saying Power", an exhibition about the black community.

● **Liverpool Museum**, Liverpool (051-507 0001).

● **Cardiff's national exhibition** of children's art: Paintings, design and poetry created by five to 17-year-olds.

● **Warrington Museum and Art Gallery**, Gold Street, Warrington, Cheshire, Fri until Apr 6, Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm, Sun 10am-5pm, free.

● **Medieval events**: Three days of activities for eight to 11-year-olds, relating to the medieval gallery, which will be opened on Feb 26.

● **Tues, food and lifestyles**: Wed, tiles and illuminations; Thurs, heraldry and coats of arms.

● **Museum of St Albans**, Herts, Tues and Thurs; St Albans Abbey Wed, Sessions 10am-12 noon, 2-4pm; £1. Booking on 0727 58878.

● **Lancaster museum**: A variety of quiz sheets at the City Museum - titles include "A Treasure Hunt", "Romans", "Victorians", "Museum Objects" and general topics. At the Maritime Museum, general quiz sheets for infant, junior and senior age groups.

● **City Museum**, Market Square; Maritime Museum, St George's Quay, Lancaster; Mon-Sat, 9.5am, free. Information on 0524 64637.

● **Manchester museum**: 12 permanent galleries open, with a steam mill in operation. In the space and scientific galleries there are hands-on exhibits.

● **Manchester Museum of Science and Industry**, Liverpool Road, Cambridge (061-532 2244). Daily 10am-6pm, £2, child £1.

## WORKSHOPS

● **V&A**: Workshops for children aged seven and over and parents in the Apple Theatre, daily at 10.30am and 1.30pm - all with south Asian theme. Today, dance; Mon, music and art; Tues, art and craft; Wed, drama; Thurs, music; £1, bookable in advance. Also, activities to watch or join in throughout the day. Today and Mon, mirror embroidery; Tues, learn a little Urdu and Hindi; Wed, musical instruments; Thurs, story-telling. Nehru Gallery, Colonnade Steps, 11am-12.30pm and 1.30-3.30pm, free; no booking required.

● **V&A**, South Kensington, London SW7 (071-836 8437).

● **Horsesham Russian Festival**: During the week-long festival, a series of workshops based on Russian folklore for two age groups: Mon, six to nine-year-olds, Tues-Wed, nine to 16-year-olds.

● **Horsesham Arts Centre**, North Street, Horsesham, West Sussex; Mon-Wed 9.30am-12 noon, £2, bookable on 0403 88689.

● **Poole workshops**: For five to 12-year-olds, painting, drama, collage, pottery, needlecraft and weaving every Sat until Mar 18.

● **Poole Arts Centre**, Poole, Dorset. Sat 11am-12.30pm, £2.05, bookable on 0202 88522.

● **Bridgeport dressing-up box**: For the under-fives a playgroup with dressing-up. Children under three welcomed if accompanied. Parents can visit the weekly craft market.

● **Bridgeport Arts Centre**, Bridgeport, Dorset (0308 27183). Wed 2-3pm.

● **Bird workshop**: Learn how to plan and build a nest box for different types of bird.

● **Margam Park**, West Gwent (0483 881635). 4pm, £5, child £2.50.

● **Working crafts afternoon**: Chance for children and families to have a go at butter churning, flax and spinning, corn, spinning, weaving and corn dolly making.

● **Demonstrations of harness making**, Tolson Memorial Museum, Rushmore Park, Windsor (0484 530591); today 2-4pm, free.

● **Basketry day course**: Traditional craft of willow basket-making with demonstrations and a chance to make your own. Suitable for older children and parents.

● **Lee Valley Countryside Centre**, Weirham Abbey, Essex. Today from 10.30am. Course fee £15.50; some places still available, check on 0282 713838.

● **STATELY HOMES**

● **Many stately homes and historic buildings** remain open during the winter months, when they are less crowded. Two useful guides are: *The National Trust Handbook*, listing all NT properties, with opening times, charges and facilities. Obtainable by post from the National Trust, 38 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AS; enclose a cheque for £3.95 plus 50p p&h.

● **The book is also obtainable** from good book shops.

● **Guide to English Heritage Properties**, available by post from English Heritage, PO Box 229, Northampton, NN6 9DY; enclose a cheque for £2.25 plus 80p p&h.

● **COMPILED BY JUDY FROSHAUG AND SUE MOORE**

## New year puzzle

THERE are 12 animals in the Chinese zodiac and each year is governed by one of them in succession. The year of the goat started yesterday - or is the year of the ram, or is the sheep? Opinions differ but according to Derek Walters, a specialist in Chinese astrology, the confusion arises because the word Yang means any ovine animal, including goat, sheep and ram.

"Cautious, for example, is known as the city of five rivers but its main statue depicts five goats," Mr Walters says.

Mr Tony Man, the spokesman for the Chinatown Chinese Association in London, offers another explanation: that sheep predominate in the north of China, goats in the south and people identify with the particular animal accordingly.

On the international front, Yang portends suggest peace and harmony. On the home front, we are cautioned to be careful with our money and if possible to invest in art and antiques. Personally, we are urged to make new friends, get on with our neighbours and end old hostility.



Wendy boys: wide-eyed children at London's Soho festivities

Home life is all important, and this is an auspicious year in which to get married or start a family.

Chinese communities in Britain will do most of their celebrating this weekend. In London, festivities centre round Leicester Square, Gerard Street, Newport Place and Lisie Street, tomorrow from 10.45am until early evening, and include traditional dragon and lion dances, martial arts and cultural displays, market stalls, fortune tellers and the money god

dispensing 5,000 red packets of *lai si* ("lucky money") to children. At Neal Street East there is a life-force dance from 2pm to 5pm.

Other celebrations will take place in Chinese communities over the next few days. Tomorrow, in Birmingham, there is a variety show at 2pm. In Liverpool, cultural performances at the Merseyside Chinese community centre at 7pm. In Glasgow on Monday there are festivities at the Strathclyde community centre from 2pm.

JUDY FROSHAUG

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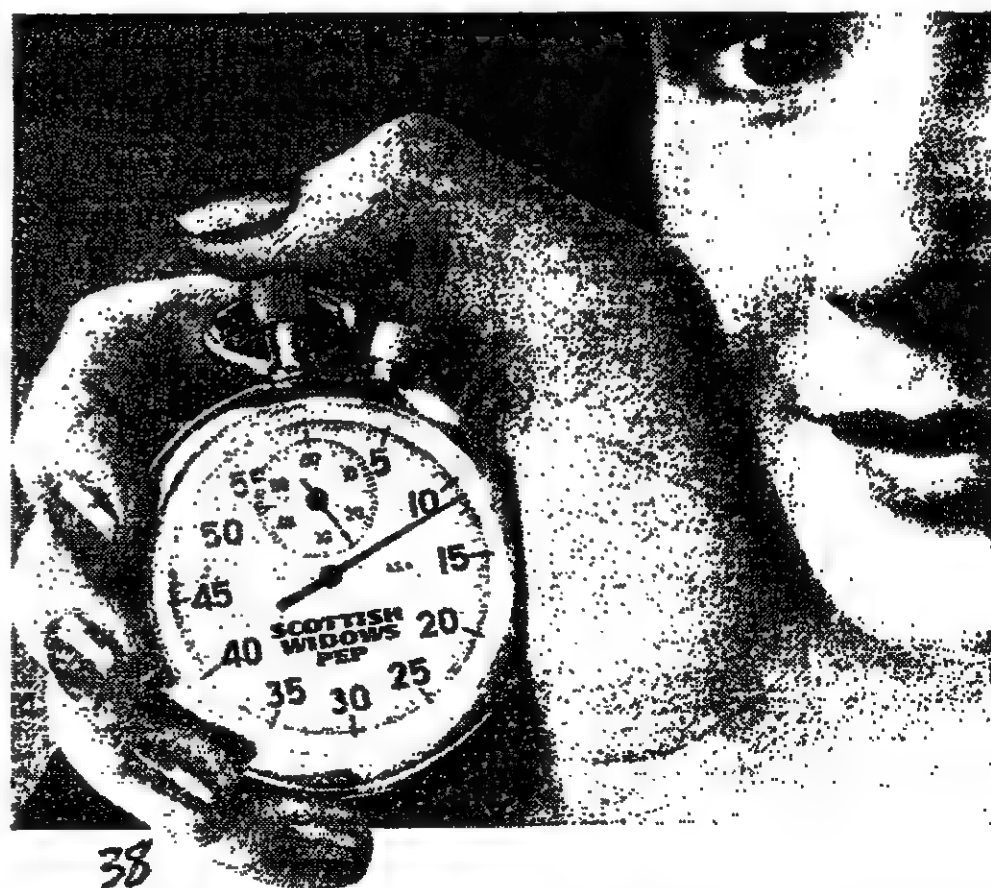
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Ronnie Spector: Sixties singer with a faded post, a slightly croakier voice, but a hairdo as wild as ever

## The best part is breaking up

Quintessential voice of the Sixties,  
former wife of the inimitable Phil:

Ronnie Spector, by Barney Hoskyns

The snowbound metropolis of London holds many memories for Ronnie Spector. When she was riding high in the mid-Sixties with the Ronettes, that vampy girl group to end all girl groups, she was aquired around town by no less than the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. "Oh, the clubs they had then," she sighs wistfully, recalling the great days of the Ad Lib and the Crazy Elephant. What she remembers best about Swinging London, however, is her jealous boyfriend and Sveragali, Phil Spector, who used to jet in from America to make sure the young guns of the British invasion were keeping their paws off her petite and kitchenish body.

The story is merely one of countless examples of Phil Spector's attempts to control the diminutive beauty who was to become his wife (and virtually his prisoner) four years later. Having turned the Ronettes into superstars with classic pop hits such as "Be My Baby" (1963) and "Baby I Love You" (1964), the powerful maestro—the first and most definitive example of the record producer as apparent auteur—decided that little Veronica Bennett from Spanish Harlem was not simply his creation but his property. By the time she was finally free of his clutches in 1972 she was an alcoholic and an emotional wreck without a career.

A quarter-century after John Lennon attempted to seduce

her at a house in Mayfair, Ronnie Spector is back in town to promote *Be My Baby*, an autobiography inevitably dominated by the seemingly autocratic figure of her ex-husband and mentor. If the irresistible post of 17-year-old Veronica has faded over the years, and the New York tenement voice is a mite croakier, the wild hairdo is still in place. It is not difficult to make out the innocent street princess Phil Spector fell in love with. "I think what the audience liked about us was that they knew we weren't as brassy as we seemed," she says. "That's what turned them on. It was just our gimmick, what made us different from all the other girl groups."

Simply as a story of one man's dominance over a woman, *Be My Baby* makes a fairly harrowing read. Not content with incarcerating her in a Beverly Hills compound, complete with ferocious guard dogs, Spector dictated what Ronnie could wear, read, and watch on TV; then tried to make up for his tyrannical cruelty by buying her children as presents. "When we got married," she says, "I think he took all of the obsessions of his work and poured them

into me. I became his obsession." She did not believe he was insane, however, even when he presented her with an inflatable Phil Spector doll to put in the passenger seat on the occasional shopping trips she was permitted. "I think Phil became a replica of what he read about himself," she says damningly. "If they said he was a genius, he became a genius. If they said he was a mad genius, that's what he became. I actually think he's quite sane."

How she could have put up with Spector for so long is then the question. "I put up with him for that long because I was fearful and I didn't know any different. I didn't know how to say 'Leave me alone' or 'I don't want to watch Citizen Kane tonight.' The first time I woke up in a sanitarium after getting away from Phil, I found out that I could read any book that I wanted to read. I heard Carole King's *Tapestry* album for the first time, because Phil never allowed rock'n'roll in the house." Asked if *Be My Baby* is an instructive book for women in general, she says that it is definitely "not just for women entertainers,

or for women who are married to rich and powerful men."

One of the prices Ronnie has paid for being the former Mrs Phil Spector is that most people, especially fellow musicians, are more curious to know about the sub-Howard Hughes legend of the producer of those glorious "little symphonies for the kids" than they are to know about her. When she cut sides (like the apocryphal Billy Joel song "Say Goodbye to Hollywood") with Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band in the Seventies, they drove her mad with questions about "how many pianos Phil used on 'Be My Baby'". Even promoting her book she contends with the same problem, since journalists tend to identify with paranoid producers before abused stars.

Ronnie may never achieve the belated mega-success of Cher or Tina Turner, two other women who broke free of the dominating clutches of their husbands, but she has at least joined the likes of Little Richard and Dion in salvaging an extraordinary story from the ashes of her career. "After I saw *Lady Sings the Blues*," she says, "I said 'I wanna be the first rock 'n' roller to survive all of it—the alcohol, the drugs.' I did everything in my power to keep on track, because this business can floor you. I wanted to tell the story, and still maintain my sanity. This she has done admirably. *Be My Baby* is published by MacMillan at £14.99.

DONALD COOPER



Uprooted: Tom Wilkinson (top) and David Birkin

roots is vividly aware of them, like a phantom ache in an amputated limb. Now he is beset by a "filthy British" by Egyptian children, and now he is back in the supposed safety of a Surrey prep-school, being attacked as a "wog-lover" by his compatriots. Clearly, he has something in common with his pet chameleon, able to make his superficial adjustments to any environment, but destroyed when lightning strikes his favourite tree.

The same image applies to the most sympathetic character, the family manservant, Ibrahim. A less canny author than Hampton, a less robust actor than Saeed Jaffrey, might sentimentalise his eccentricities. After all, he says things such as "Sir Winston must tell Sir Eden to pull up his socks and not be a silly man", taking a sur-

reptitious swig of whisky as he adds that he is "very neutral pro-British". But when the lightning strikes him, and he may even die as a "collaborator", there is something genuinely dignified about his loyalty and painful about his predicament. He knows that he is rootless, marooned between two worlds, and he is thus prepared to accept all the consequences.

That makes for a moving ending, but the appeal of the rest of the evening is rather different. This is the play that gently explains how Hampton became a dramatist and why he ended up writing *Savages*, *Tales from Hollywood* and *The Philanthropist*. Not belonging has always been his theme. Here is the story behind it.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

### TELEVISION REVIEW

## 'I think I'd rather watch the sandwich'

Lynne Truss looks at  
everyday trials in  
*The Secret Life of  
Machines, Shrinks,  
Roseanne, Cutting Edge  
and 40 Minutes*

Speaking as someone brought up to believe that interference on a television screen could be corrected by jumping up and down on a particular spot on the carpet, I have found Tim Hunkin's series on *The Secret Life of Machines* (Channel 4) a bit of an eye-opener. His programmes are designed to take household appliances and demystify them for us, proving that they are simpler than they look. But since I have always regarded household appliances as things that function entirely according to mood ("I see Mr Kettle has got the hump again"), their effect on me has been quite the reverse.

From his programme about the telephone, for example, I discovered that telephone exchanges are mechanically quite complex, and that my cherished pet theory about wrong numbers could not possibly be true (the presence of salt under the fingerprints of the dialler really can have no influence whatever). But the reason I mention Hunkin is that this week's programme inadvertently cast a whole new light on the video recorder. Hunkin's assistant explained that one of the problems with videos is that pesky children, driven by an infantile urge to emulate their elders, may insert unsuitable items through the slot on the front when nobody is looking. What sort of things? Well, slices of toast, he said. And jam sandwiches.

I found this idea oddly appealing. Do children think of this terrific wheeze unaided, or are they prompted by warnings such as, "And if I find you've put that sandwich in the video there'll be hell to pay"? Also, do exhausted parents then sit in front of the telly and watch the jam sandwich for an hour or two before discovering the ghastly truth? No doubt they then weigh up the pros and cons: "Dad's Army is on in a minute." "I think I'd rather watch the jam sandwich." "All right, suits me."

As yet, none of the psychiatrists in *Shrinks* (Thames) has dealt with the syndrome of video abuse, but it can only be a matter of time. The 90-minute opening episode on Wednesday was packed stiff with sensational events—wife-battering, child neglect, impotence, degenerating the fact that there was something familiar about the formula. But what was it? I racked my brains. Umm. Where had I seen a series about a high-class professional group practice, which holds impromptu meetings about the morality of its cases? Tsk. Why did I keep expecting to hear American accents and see Los Angeles courtrooms? Sniff. And why did I have to struggle against the conviction that I was watching Channel 4 on a Saturday night?

It was well acted, though, with Bill Paterson as compelling as ever. The fact that it had nothing to do with psychoanalysis as most people experience it—for one thing, no actual doh changed hands—didn't seem to matter, what with all the clothes and cars and spacious Georgian properties. The really troubling thing about *Shrinks* was something else entirely: it was the way the women were repeatedly portrayed as incapable of shouldering moral responsibility. "No, I can't make this decision!" was their anguished cry. I hope this lamentable weak-willed-woman characteristic does not persist. Perhaps the writers should ask themselves why they are angry with their mothers.

Nice to see Roseanne back on Friday nights (Channel 4). Perhaps I am merely over-compensating for the lack of psychoanalysis in *Shrinks*, but watching last night's episode I suddenly felt I understood the deep-down attraction of this series. Roseanne's version of parenthood is the wish-fulfilment of a child: she

revels in ordering people around, kicking butt and always (yes, always) getting the final word. Last night she did a pregnancy test and told the children that if it proved positive she expected their support. "I'm not asking for it," she snarled. "You're just gonna give it."

But if Roseanne creates the illusion of a child having power, this week's *Cutting Edge* (called "Relative Strangers") brutally demonstrated the opposite case, being about the supreme power of mothers to hurt children, even ones they have barely met. It focused on Ariel Bruce, who tracks down women who gave their babies for adoption. Bruce encourages the unwanted children (now grown up) to risk further rejection by making contact. What sort of person takes a job like this? No doubt in her spare time she finds hornets' nests and pokes them with a stick.

"Relative Strangers" was at times almost unbearable to watch. One of Bruce's clients was a man with a withered arm who had been adopted at birth. She found out for him that he was the fourth child in a family of six, and broke the terrible news that all five siblings had been brought up by his natural mother. As he fought back his

anguish, Bruce demonstrated the mingly "counselling" part of her service by touching him lightly on the arm and asking him if he was all right.

Ultimately he travelled to meet his family, and the story appeared to end in dreamlike happiness, with his mother professing she had regretted losing him. She even said she had always hoped he would one day seek her out. She gave the slightly fishy impression, in fact, of someone who welcomed long-lost sons into the family every day of her life.

Finally to 40 Minutes, a thoroughly inconsequential portrait of life in Surbiton designed to confound those of us who sneer at commuter-land. It was apparently the brainchild of Surbitonic novelist Wendy Perriam, a shrill woman who evidently needs to prove to the world that Surbiton is at least as interesting a place for a novelist to live as Montparnasse or Washington Square. Look, she said, I can just pop around the corner to the Surbiton YMCA and find there all the characters I need—widows, retired majors, weight-lifters, the lot. Would I exchange an NW3 address for this? Would I nelly.

Well, bully for her. I must confess I had already formed a dislike for Wendy Perriam before seeing this programme, on the basis of a previous appearance on *40 Minutes*, defending her ownership of a fur coat. Her argument was that minks in the wild are vicious hunters of newts and frogs; thus, the owner of a fur coat is actually responsible for saving the lives of countless amphibians, and deserves a vote of thanks from Ken Livingstone. Has she noticed, I wonder, that the fur trade has failed to pounce on this ingenious argument? I have not yet seen the posters, anyway. "Buy a mink and save a newt."

Wise-cracking mother: Roseanne Barr with John Goodman, her husband in *Roseanne*

## Vivid awareness of the national colour of roots

White Chameleon  
Cortessloe

"PLEASE" don't send me to the Persian Gulf! was the anachronistic-sounding plea from Christopher Hampton's father when he was due for a new posting in 1952. Unfortunately for him, but fortunately for posterity, Cable and Wireless listened. The company kept him in Alexandria throughout the years of nationalist fervour that culminated in the Suez affair. Thus did his 10-year-old son, the dramatist-to-be, learn what it was to be an exile and outsider, like so many characters in his plays.

It was, surely, a more exciting period and place than Hampton's richard Eyre's cool, spare production suggests. But then the play's emphasis is less on political turmoil, more on its glancing effects on a susceptible mind. For the boy Hampton, the triumph of Nasser means not knowing if riots will stop him seeing *East of Eden* at Alexandria's Rialto. It means singing the new national anthem with Egypt's cross-channel swimming team, whom he happens to meet on a liner to Britain. It means hearing his mother sobbing upstairs and becoming dimly aware of a rift between her and his father.

This is the second childhood memoir the National has presented recently, and if this is a trend, it is worth encouraging. Like Brian Friel's all-Irish *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *White Chameleon* communicates a sense of loss, disintegration. It is less rich, subtle and moving, perhaps, but it is sensitive and diverting, a play to hearten those who feel that Hampton has been spending too much time adapting the likes of *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* and too little listening to his own somewhat forlorn muse.

Two Christophers tread Bob Crowley's austere set, often concurrently. Thus David Birkin, giving a nice, unaffected performance as the boy, plays hide-and-seek with his chums while Tom Wilkinson, the way, ruminate adult, meanders round the bleached chairs describing his mental and emotional furniture.

Just to complicate things, Wilkinson intermittently removes his specs to become Hampton *père*, an engineer convinced, unlike Suzanne Burden's pained, aloof Hampton *mère*, that "we've done very well out of Egypt, now we have to give it back". But the dramatic technique works well enough. Clarity is never a problem.

Gradually, it becomes evident what Christopher means when he confides that "the man with roots takes them for granted while the man with no

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### THE SUNDAYTIMES

"Fame is a curse. There's nowhere you can go where people are straight with you. You can't trust anybody. You're a tourist attraction. And God knows I haven't made a lot of money out of it. Let me tell you that my record company will make about 82% of what my work, my life and my suffering have generated."

Sinead O'Connor, interviewed in  
*The Sunday Times* tomorrow.

### BRIEFING

#### Retiring gracefully

RUDOLF Nureyev has just announced his so-called "farewell tour" of Britain. Starting on April 26 at the Empire Theatre in Sunderland, the Russian ballet star will be joined by guests from around the world. It was almost exactly 30 years ago that the former Kirov star made his famous leap to freedom at a Paris airport. By the time the tour begins, he will be 53. The tour, which ends in Brighton on May 17, includes a performance on May 3 at Wembley Arena.

#### Shuffle westwards

THOSE who were frustrated in their attempt to get tickets for *Dancing at Lughnasa* during its sold-out run at the National Theatre will be pleased to know that Brian Friel's play makes its West End debut next month. The Irish play will follow *Into the Woods* at the Phoenix Theatre for a limited engagement which begins on March 18.

Dancing was expected to open on Broadway on March 27, but producer Noel Pearson decided to postpone the New York transfer until the autumn when the climate for plays should be healthier.

#### Best of British

THE Oscar nominations, revealed this week, quite engulfed the film nominations announced by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts. With good reason, too: many of the titles on Baffa's list, drawn from films enjoyed by members over the past calendar year, seem like ancient history. One of this year's nominees, for example, is *Driving Miss Daisy*, which was released in Britain last March, and has already won three Oscars. Other Best Film contenders on this year's list are *Crimes and Misdemeanours*, *Pretty Woman*, and *GoodFellas*. There are no nominations for this year's big Oscar contender, *Dances with Wolves*, although *Postcards from the Edge* receives three. The awards will be presented on March 17, eight days before the Oscars.

#### Last chance...

BOB Dylan completes his extended residency at west London's Hammersmith Odeon (081-748 4081) with shows tonight and tomorrow night. Now out of touch with the modern world, the former spokesman of a generation has become an erratic performer whose shows are entirely subject to caprice. With material taken mostly from his Sixties portfolio, and a spiky new backing band of no discernible pedigree struggling to read his boss's unpredictable mind, the results vary from the mundane to the heroic.

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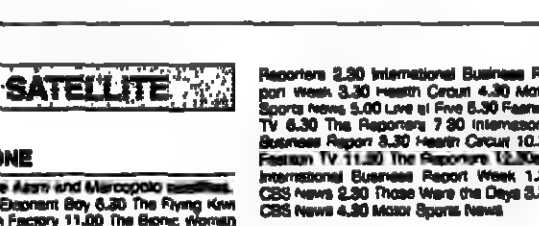
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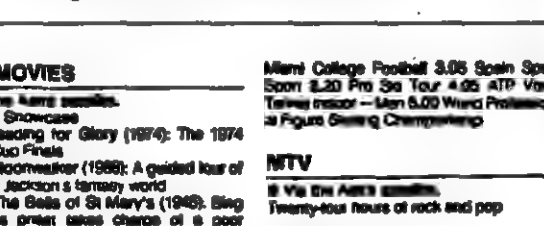
- 6.40 Open University: Special needs in education 7.05 Pure Maths  
7.30 Babel: Animated tales of the true elephant 7.55 Eggs 'n' Baker.  
Cheryl Baker presents the cooking programme with two live bands, a new video and a recipe 8.35 BravoStart (r)  
9.00 Going Live! Sarah Greene and Philip Schofield present the children's magazine programme. The guests include Rene Zagger and Samantha Lewis from the cast of *Grange Hill*, birds of prey expert Jimena Parry-Jones and children's author Paula Danziger. Live music is provided by Chris Rea 12.12 Weather  
12.15 Grandstand introduced by Desmond Lynam. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 12.20 Football: a preview of today's FA Cup first round ties, 12.50 News; 12.55 A Tribute to Ron Pickering followed by Rugby Union preview, 1.05 Ice Hockey: the Hellenic league match between Durham Wasps and Ayr Raiders; 1.45 Indoor Bowls followed by Indoor Athletics from Stuttgart; 2.10 Rugby Union: live coverage of the Calcutta Cup match between England and Scotland at Twickenham; 3.55 Football half-time; 4.00 Rugby Union: highlights of the game in Cardiff between Wales and Ireland, 4.40 Racing: a recording of the 4.05 race from Leopardstown - the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup; 4.45 Final Score  
5.20 Regional News and Sport Wales (to 5.50) Wales on Saturday  
5.25 Stay Tuned: Tony Robinson presents a selection of his favourite cartoons from around the world  
5.50 Jim'll Fix It. Jimmy Savile turns dreams into reality for a girl who wants to co-host the Radio 1 Roadshow with Philip Schofield and a young man who is fascinated by powerboats (r) (Coastal)  
6.25 'Allo 'Allo. Second world war resistance farce with dreadful accents and even worse jokes. René (Gordon Kaye), in his other hat as editor of the local newspaper, organises a competition to find a woman of strength, beauty and virtue to represent the "Spirit of Nowhere". Of course, Edith (Carmen Silvera) decides to enter (Coastal)  
6.55 The Paul Daniels Magic Show. Theatre critic Sheridan Morley returns to open the envelope he was given last week to reveal a startling prediction. He is joined by high-speed artist Denny Dent. (Coastal)  
7.40 Bergerac: The Waiting Game. After a brief sojourn in France, sunny Jim (John Nettles) is back on scenic Jersey, investigating companies seeking trade licences on the island. Dumpy girlfriend Danielle is sure that Jim is in danger, but cannot convince anyone. Cheerful Charlie Hargreaves (Terence Alexander) Jersey's answer to Arthur Daley, continues to provide the brightest moments. (Coastal)  
8.35 Don't Wait Up. Easy-going comedy about the father and son doctors. Toby becomes involved in a deception and ends up in a dodgy situation. Tom has his own problem, but this has more to do with the lack of hot water rather than landing in it. Stars Tony Britton and Nigel Havers (r) (Coastal)  
9.05 News and Sport with Martin Lewis. (Coastal) Weather  
9.25 Midsomer Murders: The Hostage Game. A Polish American drama about Jack Kilham (Gary Cole), a cop turned radio talk-show host. Kilham's meeting with an old friend turns into a day of desperation. The man's brother is an American priest held on board an airliner hijacked by a Colombian drug cartel that will do anything to win the freedom of one of its members. (Coastal)  
10.15 The Full Monty. American comedian Ruby Wax with more spontaneous conversation, interviews and comedy, all designed to show how wacky she is. The co-host is the jumbo-sized comedian Mike McShane (of *Who's Line Is It Anyway?*) and guests include Elaine Stritch and Cindy Jackman  
10.50 Match of the Day: The Road to Wembley. Desmond Lynam introduces action from three of today's FA Cup first round ties. As it is, it can be first three, with one to be played tomorrow and another on Monday. Two fourth round matches still undecided and the rest all the mercy of the weather  
1.40 Weather



Hunting bounty and bounty hunters: Yul Brynner (midnight)

## BBC 2

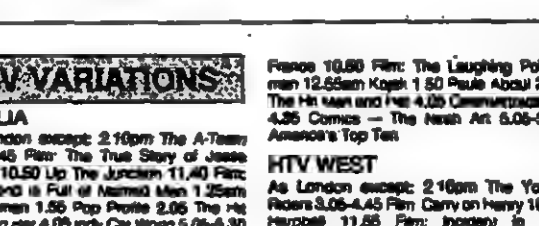
- 6.50 Open University  
2.45 Menzies: Subtitled Indian epic in 91 parts  
3.25 Film: *Johnny Angel* (1945, b/w). George Raft, Claire Trevor and Signe Hasso star in this solidly crafted melodrama about sea captain Johnny Angel's attempt to avenge the murder of his father. Darkly atmospheric, the film combines strong acting with clever psychological undertones and the plotting is satisfyingly complicated. Directed by Edwin L. Marin  
4.40 Frisky Passions. Margaret Vaughan concludes her series by sampling some punch on a railway amusement and making a sherry from plums, apples and autumn which presumably tastes better than it sounds (r). (Coastal)  
5.10 Bowls. David Donnelly presents action from the second day of the Midland Bank world indoor championships at the Guild Hall in Preston  
6.15 Late Again. This week's highlights from the arts and media programme, *The Late Show*  
7.00 News and weather  
7.15 Westminster. The veteran left walker, who died recently, on the last leg of his 150-mile coast to coast journey (r)  
7.45 The Trial of George Washington.  
● CHOICE: A convincing exercise in legal reconstruction imagines George Washington visiting London in 1779 to defend himself against a charge of high treason for leading the American colonists in armed rebellion against the British Crown. The trial is set in the grand hall of the House of Commons, with the witness, including Washington himself, played by historical experts. The proceedings are unscripted. We have a South African O.C. wigged and gowned, for the prosecution and a team of lounge-suited American lawyers for the defence. As in real courts there is much playing to the gallery, not least by the imperious Lord North and Benjamin Franklin, and of whom have, say, George Washington's trial. No one will pretend that the judgment, delivered in three minutes flat, comes as a great surprise. But the verbal jousting that precedes it is entertainment of high quality  
9.05 French and Saunders. More sketches from one of the best British comic duos. With special guests Mark Knopfler, Dave Gorman, Lesley, Mark King and Gary Moore (r)  
9.35 John Sessions's Tall Tales: There's Nowt So Queer As Folk. The fifth of six one-man plays written and performed by the inventive John Sessions. Tonight's unlikely story concerns William and Dorothy Wordsworth and their dog-crazed lodger, Samuel Taylor Coleridge  
10.00 Rhythms of the World: China Rocks - the Long March of Cui Jian.  
● CHOICE: Up to five or six years ago there was no rock music in China and youngsters went on to worship hard to make do with Charismatic Music. Enter Cui Jian, dubbed the Godfather of Rock and the country's first rock star. He has a unique sound. He can fill huge stadiums with frenzied fans. But unlike most western performers, he cannot see rock music as separate from politics. "Rock," he declares, "is the most direct way to other people's thoughts." He trends carefully and his lyrics are often deliberately obscure. But his song "Nothing to My Name" became an anthem for the student protesters of Tiananmen Square. Cui Jian's film mixes music and live performance to follow Cui Jian's progress from promising boy trumpeter to hero of Chinese youth. It also charts the growing opposition of the authorities, to the point where they have banned him from giving live concerts  
11.00 Twin Peaks. David Lynch's cult mystery comes close to answering the vital question: What are there still many episodes to go. Starring Kyle MacLachlan, Michael O'Keefe and Piper Laurie (Coastal)  
11.50 The Film Club. Director Krzysztof Kieslowski introduces *Interiors* (1981, b/w). Adam Fencny and Krystyna Janda star in a powerful Polish film about a girl who falls into the hands of the secret police and is subjected to demeaning and harrowing ordeals. Banned for several years, the film was a hit of last year's Cannes festival, where Janda won the best actress award for her memorable performance as the girl whose desperate range from her husband's execution to an affair with the interrogator who tries to get her to inform on a friend. Directed by Ryszard Bugalski. In Polish with English subtitles. Ends at 1.50am



Hiding politics and rock music: China's Cui Jian (10.00pm)

## BBC 2

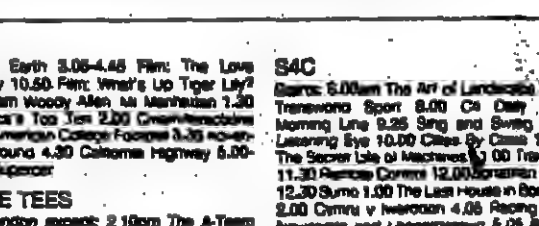
- 6.00 TV-am. Beatrice Hoffer came with a new bulletin followed by Gull news presented by Mary Evans, Mike Morris and Louise Kelly take over at 7.00 with Gull news and home news 8.00 Hey Hey It's Saturday Canons  
9.25 Motormouth. Children's magazine show with music, guests and videos. The guests include Kim Acleady and the L.A.s. There are also highlights of the Spenser holiday race at Avonmore  
11.30 The ITV Chart Show. The Vintage Video slot features Ellis, Beaggs & Co. and the new album by the band  
12.20 Saint & Greaves. Ian St John and Jimmy Greaves preview the first round of the FA Cup and place their bets on who will be playing in the quarter-finals  
1.00 News (Crane) and weather 1.05 LWT News and weather  
1.10 Grand Sportmasters. Dickie Davies hosts the quiz to find the sporting brain of Britain  
1.40 World Sport Special. A look at the week's important sporting events from around the world  
2.10 The Day. An essential 24 hours in the life of a member of the public (r)  
2.15 Golf: PGA Tour '91. Action from the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic  
3.10 Film: *Escape to Burma* (1955). Barbara Stanwyck stars in a taut and enthralling drama as the owner of a tea plantation who engineers Robert Ryan, on the run for their murder. Directed by Alan Davis  
4.45 News and weather  
4.50 Results Service presented by Elinor Wobley  
5.10 LWT News and weather  
5.15 Beverly Hills, 90210: The 17-Year Itch. The series which managed to imitate millions on its first screening continues regardless, with teenage angst and many a moment told through the eyes of a Michaelis family experiencing culture shock on moving to Beverly Hills (Coastal)  
6.10 Cazzophrase. The game show in which Roy Walker invites contestants to recognise some occasionally very odd combinations of words  
6.40 You Boff It's Saturday. It's peak time, so it must be another jolly public perception show. Having wined and dined the public's affection for Jeremy Beadle, LWT pushes its luck with another former Game for a Laugh star, Matthew Kelly, who replaces Bruce Forsyth as the host in this physical and mental challenge show. Celebrities Vicki Michelle, Nick Skelton and Brian Glover join Kelly in challenging fame-hungry boys to perform weird and pointless feats such as knocking coconuts off cones with the back wheel of a motorcycle, or dunking ice bags into a tepal from a great height. But as it's all for charity, this debauches a lot. Or does it?  
7.40 Film: *Front Russia with Love* (1967). Sean Connery at his most seductive, suave and insolent in the second Bond movie and arguably the best of the lot. Agent 007 battles to outwit a Russian spy who has joined forces with an international crime syndicate to steal a coding machine and kill Bond. The action takes Bond to Istanbul and Venice and includes stunts involving a speeding train and a helicopter. Daniela Bianchi provides the romantic interest. Directed by Terence Young  
9.45 News, sport and weather 10.00 LWT weather  
10.05 Aspel & Company. Michael Aspel invites Dawn French in for a chat and talks to her about her leading role in Ben Elton's new play *Silly Cow*. They are joined by actor John Hurt and Status Quo  
10.50 Jake and the Farmans: Side by Side. Detective tales with William Conrad and Joe Penny. The attempted murder of a newspaper editor leaves McCracken stranded on a remote Hawaiian island, being stalked by a crocodile  
11.50 Diamond Awards Festival 1990. A marathon rock and pop extravaganza designed to test the endurance of even the most hardened music lover. The acts include Man Prete, Duran Duran, Jimmy Somerville, Jason Donovan, Kim Wilde, Kylie Minogue, Soul II Soul and the Human League, but it is a long time to wait if your favourite is on last  
4.10 The Hit Man and more. More gorythrone from a disco somewhere in Britain with Pete Waterman and Michaela Strachan  
5.10 Backstage  
5.30 ITN Morning News. Ends at 6.00



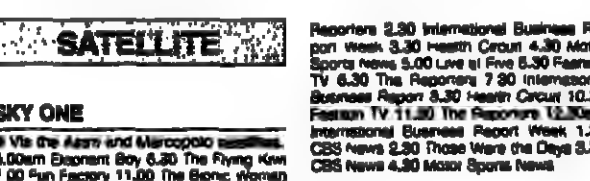
Charitable games for another laugh: Matthew Kelly (6.40pm)

## CHANNEL 4

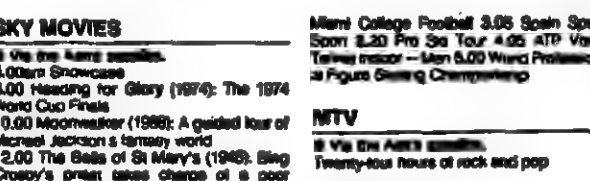
- 6.00 Comic Book. Cartoons 7.00 Trans World Sport  
8.00 The Channel 4 Daily with the latest news from the Gulf  
9.15 Channel 4 Racing: The Morning Line  
9.25 Sing and Swing. Jazz acts from the Thirties and Forties (r)  
9.30 Listening Eye. Signs of Our Times. Philip Jackson, author of *Britain's Deal Heritage*, discusses how the deaf community can preserve and develop their culture. Last in the series (r)  
10.00 Norm Pole Expedition. The story of an expedition made by three Norwegians and a Canadian who set out on snow scooters for the North Pole  
10.30 Film: *Just William's Luck* (1947, b/w). Continuing a short series of films featuring Richard Crompton's rascally schoolboy hero. Directed by Val Guest 12.15 Platoon. American  
12.30 The Munsters: Family Portrait (b/w) America's spookiest family is disoriented (r)  
1.00 Film: *The Magic Box* (1952). Robert Donat as British film pioneer William Friese-Greene in a film made for the Festival of Britain. Set in 19th century London, the film follows the life of a portrait photographer who became obsessed with moving pictures. There are starting performances from Margaret Johnston and Alan Schell as the hero's wives and notable cameos by Laurence Olivier (as a policeman), Michael Redgrave, Richard Attenborough and Margaret Rutherford. Set in a more like present than a drama, and a not very exciting one. Directed by John Boulting  
3.00 Channel 4 Racing from Leopardstown. Live coverage of the 3.05, 3.35 and 4.05 (Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup) races.  
4.55 Sand and Sweat. A documentary about a desert marathon  
5.05 Broadsides. Omnibus edition (r). (Teletext)  
6.30 Right to Reply. The BBC's coverage of the Gulf conflict. Without Hades - Action Faces and the Bt Awards are this week's topics  
7.00 The World This Week. Includes Sergeant Grogan, spokesman for President Gorbachev, and Manfred Womer, secretary-general of Nato, on the future of arms control in Europe. Followed by Weather  
8.00 The Land of Europe: Pysalovo.  
● CHOICE: The international series on rural life continues with a gloomy offering from the Soviet Union. The gloom hangs over both style and substance as the director, Vladimir Dekonov, takes his camera crew to a small farming community on the Soviet-Latvian border. Even in May the place looks like death and Dekonov makes it seem even worse than it is by shooting at dusk or bathing his images in heavy shadow. The human story concerns a farmer who has been chosen by his wife to work on a kolkhoz collective. It is a life he has chosen but he still finds it demeaning, dominated by a system that stifles dignity and ambition. The town seems so hopeless that when a woman takes to the streets to protest at conditions, she is berated by her fellow citizens. An ideal prize winner, Dekonov is said to be planning to leave the Soviet Union and work in the West. No one who sees this film will blame him. (Teletext)  
8.00 LA Law. Kuzak (Harry Hamlin) compromises himself to win the right to defend a big pharmaceutical company (r). (Teletext)



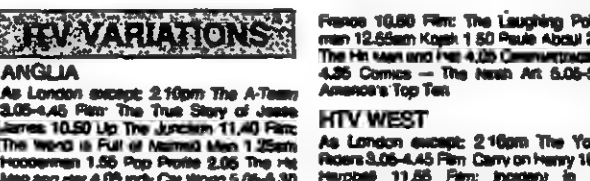
Liberated from a life painting prison: Nabil Shaban (10.00pm)



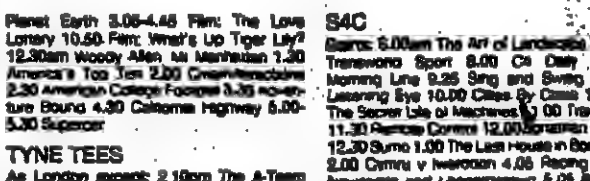
Hunting bounty and bounty hunters: Yul Brynner (midnight)



Hiding politics and rock music: China's Cui Jian (10.00pm)



Charitable games for another laugh: Matthew Kelly (6.40pm)



Liberated from a life painting prison: Nabil Shaban (10.00pm)

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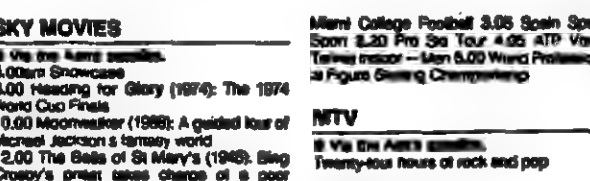
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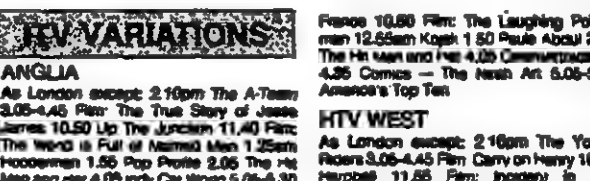
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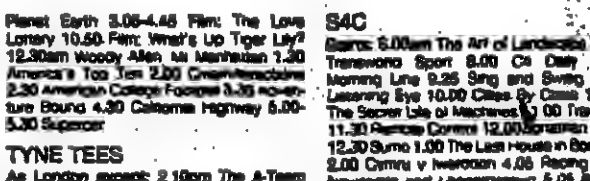
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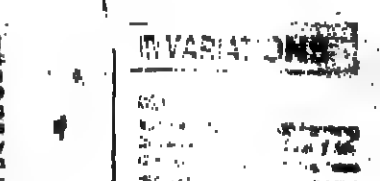
Hiding politics and rock music: China's Cui Jian (10.00pm)



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## BBC

- 6.45 Open University  
6.55 Playdays. For the young (r)  
8.15 Come Holy Spirit. A new religious series exploring how the Holy Spirit works in individuals and communities  
10.00 A Vous le Français French for beginners (r). Wales (to 12.30pm)  
See You Sunday 10.25 España Viva. An introduction to Spanish (Czech) 11.15 A Way With Numbers. More effective communication  
Bazaar. Nerys Hughes presents more economical ideas (r) 12.05  
See Heart Magazine for the hearing impaired  
12.30 Country File. A report from the annual conference of the National Farmers' Union Wales: Farming in Wales 12.55 Weather  
1.00 News followed by On The Record. Should the West's attitude to President Gorbachev and the Soviet Union fundamentally change in the light of recent events? With former foreign secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe and Dr David Owen  
2.00 Eastenders. Omnibus edition (r). (Czech)  
3.00 Match of the Day. Live coverage of Liverpool v Everton in the FA Cup fifth round, presented by Desmond Lynam and Jimmy Hill. Eight days after the teams met in the League, will Everton have a chance to avenge their 3-1 defeat at Anfield?  
5.05 The Clothes Show. Winners of the shoe competition see their designs become creations and Ireland's best designers show their work in Belfast. Plus petite fashion, hairstyles for black hair and jewellery selections  
5.30 Antiques Roadshow from Salisbury. (Czech)  
8.15 Utelette. Joanna Lumley with an appeal on behalf of the National Playbus Association  
8.25 News with Maura Stuart. Weather  
8.40 Songs of Praise from St Marybone, London. (Czech)  
7.15 Bush Strokes. The John Emswiler-Bob Lortie comedy returns for a sixth series. We can only hope it turns out better than the fifth, which was sadly lacking in humour or inspiration. Jackie (Karl Howman) was last seen bedridden to Lucia (Louise English), but he feels the Italian way of life is not for him and is making plans to extricate himself.

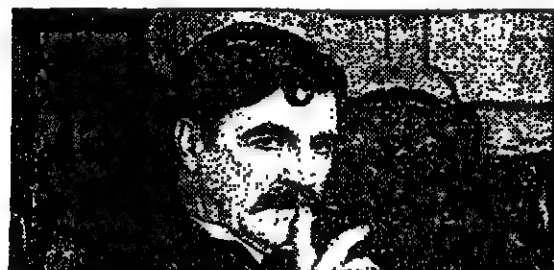


Drawing lots: Ian McShane and Edith Bront (7.45pm)

- 7.45 Lovesick. National Wealth. More delicious adventures in the antique trade with shady dealer Lovesick (Ian McShane). Called in by film star Madonna (Edith Bront) for his advice, Lovesick teams up with Madonna's friend (Edith Bront), a beautiful auctioneer, to help dispose of the lot. What Lovesick tries to get more than a deal with Madonna, a gang of art dealers is stealing from Madonna's house. With Dudley Sutton and Ronald Fraser. (Czech)  
8.35 Butterflies. Starting of a re-run of Carla Lane's perceptive pre-Broad Street starring Wendy Craig as the free-spirited Rita. Geoffrey Palmer plays the solid and predictable husband, Ben, with Nicholas Lyndhurst and Anthony Hall as their sons. The household's fragile equilibrium is threatened when a tall, dark stranger walks into Rita's life (r). (Czech)  
9.05 That's Life! More humour and heartache as told by the learn, headed by Esther Rantzen. Plus the running gag of auditioning for the vacant presenter's post.  
9.45 News with Michael Buerk. (Czech) Weather  
10.00 Measurement. Introduced by Michael Buerk, a measurement from the past. The subject is Elizabethan theatre, Federico Chopin, English royal palaces and François Truffaut  
10.30 Everyman: An Act of Love. More than 300 people — the majority of them African — have died since 1983 in family murders. The film explores the chilling phenomenon of killing one's entire family in order to get them to a better life in the new world.  
11.10 The Days and Nights of Molly Dodd. American comedy drama series starring Bob Odenkirk  
11.35 Music: Mind Your Language. A new short series aimed at establishing equal opportunities in a multi-cultural society. In the run-up to 1992 the programme investigates Britain's attitude to language learning and asks if we can continue to get away with being linguistically lazy.  
12.05am The City at Night. Patrick Moore is joined by Professor Andrew Lynne of Oxford Bank and together they examine pulsars  
12.25 Manoharati (r) 1.05 Weather

## BBC 2

- 6.35 Open University  
12.00 Regional Political Programmes. Wales: See Heart, Northern Ireland: Situations Vacant  
12.30 Scrutiny. Ian MacWhirter on the criticism levelled at Lord Young by the Trade and Industry Committee's report on the sale of Rover in 1988. (Czech)  
1.00 The New Explorers. Nick Ross looks at technology's attempts to simulate the brain  
1.25 Bowls. Coverage of the Midland Bank world indoor championships, with Dougie Donnelly  
3.00 Film: The Adventures of Quentin Durward (1955). Robert Taylor stars in this rousing swashbuckler set in 15th century Europe, loosely based on the novel by Sir Walter Scott. Directed by Richard Thorpe  
4.40 Laurel and Hardy in Sorcery (1932, b/w)  
5.00 Rugby Special. Highlights of yesterday's England v Scotland match at Twickenham and Wales v Ireland from Cardiff  
6.00 The Clive James Interview. A new series for the wizard from Oz, today in conversation with actress and writer Caine Frier. Expect her to open her heart about her former drug problem, while promoting the film of her book, *Postcards from the Edge*  
6.35 The Money Programme: A Question of Profit. When companies with glowing accounts start going to the wall in droves, standards of financial accounting are called into question. Ian Carson reports on the difficulties faced by auditors in establishing the truth  
7.15 The Natural World: Cranes of the Grey Wind  
8. CHOICE: The tallest of birds and among the most graceful, cranes are the sort of subject that wildlife film-makers must drool over. For the American Tom McMillan, the birds have become a lifelong interest. The springs and the summers of his boyhood were marked by the arrival of the cranes of this wetland stopover in the Poudre river valley of Nebraska. As an adult he embarked on a 10-year study of the birds, the results of which are detailed in this film. It follows a cycle of migration that starts and ends in Mexico, where McMillan and Tom and involves journeys of thousands of miles which take the birds by way of Nebraska to the Rockies and the top of Alaska. He follows three species, the greater and lesser sandhills and the rare whooping crane, on their transcontinental odyssey and charts the emergence of the next generation, from the first spring in the egg (Czech)  
8.05 Gardens of the Mind: Geoffrey Jellicoe, Landscape Artist. Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe has received much acclaim for designing royal gardens and landscaped factory sites and now, at 90, he faces his biggest challenge yet. The vast "Civilisation of Man" project in Galveston, Texas is an ambitious attempt to reconcile man with nature



Brief encounter in Paris: Alan Bates as Proust (8.05pm)

- 9.05 Screen Two: 102 Boulevard Hausmann (1981)  
8. CHOICE: Returning to a favourite theme of the difficulty of making relationships, Alan Bates offers an anecdote from the life of Marcel Proust. It is 1915 and the bombs are falling on Paris, but Proust (Alan Bates) writes on in a gloomy sound-proof room, his needs and his hypochondria tended by a protective housekeeper (Janet McTeer). The equilibrium is disrupted when Proust makes a run up into the outside world to attend a concert and commends a young voice player (Paul Ryan) who has been invited home from the army. As might be expected from Bates, the relationship is sensitive, low-key and ultimately abortive, a brief encounter that serves to illuminate the personality of the central character while also exploring the nature of art and artistic creation. Bates's writing is witty, economical and penetrating and the excellent cast is finely orchestrated by the director, Udayan Prasad. (Czech)  
10.20 Film: The Last Tycoon (1976). Robert De Niro gives a subtle performance as Walter Packer, a Times Hollywood mogul, living out his fantasies on celluloid but unable to sustain happiness in real life. An all-star cast includes Tony Curtis, Jack Nicholson, Robert Mitchum, Jeanne Moreau and Theresa Russell. But it is a heavy-going version of F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel, despite a script by Harold Pinter. Directed by Eli Kazan. (Czech)  
12.20am Snub. The film music show with voices, interviews and studio performances by young musicians and television acts  
12.50 Radio. Cross-channel music show, featuring Sonic Youth, Thee Patrol, Emmon and James (r) Ends at 1.25

## ITV

- 6.00 TV-am 7.30 Frost on Sunday. The guests include a number of Kuwaitis with eye-witness accounts of the carnage in their country, and Dr David Owen. The newspapers are reviewed by Eve Pollard and Andrew Whittam Smith. With news and weather at 8.00 and 9.00  
9.25 The Disney Club. With Andrea Boardman, John Eccleston and Gordon Gray  
10.45 Link. Kevin Mulhern talks to Sally Zimmern, a former patient in a mental hospital, who now discusses conventional treatment  
11.00 Morning Worship from Stretton United Reform Church, west Yorkshire  
12.00 Encounter. Black Voices. A profile of a Birmingham-based, all-female black singing group  
12.30 LWT News Weekend  
1.00 News and weather  
1.15 War in the Sky. Presented by Brian Walden and Donald MacComick  
2.00 Film: Mr Hobbs Takes a Vacation (1962). James Stewart, Maureen O'Hara and John Saxton star in a lighthearted comedy about a family taking a holiday in a desolate beach house. Directed by Henry Koster  
4.30 Cartoon Time  
4.35 Subways. Jim Bowen hosts the darts and general knowledge quiz  
5.00 International Athletics. Darts. Games. Jim Bowen presents the action from RAF Cosford. Among those due to take part are the American sprinters Leroy Burrell and Michael Johnson and Britain's Linton Christie  
5.30 News and weather 5.35 LWT News and weather  
5.40 Highway. Sir Henry Scoville visits scenic Suffolk, where he samples Tudor life at Northwell Hall in Great Marlow, admires the magnificent churches of the old wool towns of Halesign and Lavenham and visits Sudbury's salt mill  
7.15 Murder She Wrote: Flare Up! Angela Lansbury as the crime writer who spends more time solving murders than she does writing books. (Czech)  
8.05 You've Been Framed! Domestic accidents captured on video and aired for the nation by Jeremy Beadle  
8.35 News and weather 8.55 LWT Weather  
9.00 Agatha Christie's Poirot: The Mystery of the Spanish Chest. More stylish sleuthing from the Art Deco Thirties (Czech)  
10.00 Cool Head. First of a new series which rubber-laced impressionist Phil Collinson conjures up a host of characters, including the Pope, Gene Pitney and David Attenborough

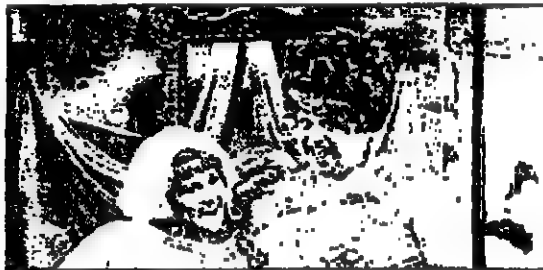


Musical longevity: four of the Five Blind Boys (10.30pm)

- 10.30 The South Bank Show: The Five Blind Boys of Alabama and R.S. Thomas  
8. CHOICE: There are two films this week and if you want a link, it is that both subjects have tended to operate outside the mainstream of their societies. In the case of the Five Blind Boys, a gospel group from Alabama, the segregation stems partly from their physical handicap but also from being born black in the racist Deep South. Tony Knowl's film is a celebration of their music and also of their longevity, with four of the five still performing after almost a century. The other film features a rare television appearance by the 78-year-old Welsh writer, R. S. Thomas. His isolation is willingly self-inflicted, stemming from a desire to be close to nature, in his case the wild, scenery of north Wales. Landscapes, Welshness and the search for God are the main concerns of his life and work. Bates at times that idea, television finds it easy to evoke the first but has to rely on Thomas's verse for the second and the third.  
11.30 Film: Obituary (1988). Lumbering spy spoof about a petty thief who wakes up with a renegade to find his host has been murdered and becomes involved in a deadly game of espionage with a beautiful secret agent. Starring Tom Courtenay and Romy Schneider. Directed by Dick Cuthbert  
1.20 The ITV Chart Show (r)  
2.20 New Music. Celebrity and pop video show  
3.20 Inoy Car Racing. More open-chassis car racing from the US  
4.20 Pick of the Week. The best from the week's regional television  
4.35 Backstage. More peering behind the scenes in the film industry  
5.00 World's Best. David Attenborough (b/w) Mervyn Humphreys. Josh Randall (Steve McQueen) and his adventures upon more adventures  
5.30 ITN Morning News. Ends at 6.00

## CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 The Channel Four Daily with the latest news from the war zone  
7.00 The Complete Show 7.30 Dr Snuggles. Cartoon series. 8.00 The Buffers. 8.30 Boobooos. Animation. 9.00 Early Bird. Informative and entertaining programme made by children for children  
9.25 Sargeant Angel. Series focusing on Bengali music  
10.00 A Week in Politics — Second Reading. Includes a discussion on patronage between Enoch Powell, Jonathan Aitken, Tony Benn and David Starkey  
10.45 Dennis. Cartoon adventures of a mischievous young boy 11.00 Boom! A visit to Whipsnade Wild Animal Park (r) 11.30 Star Test  
12.00 The Waltons 1.00 Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea (b/w). Cult series about the Sea-view, an underwater craft  
2.00 Film: The Return of Frank James (1940). Sold sequel to Jesse James, shown last Sunday on this channel, telling the story of Frank James's attempts to avenge the murder of his brother. Stars Henry Fonda and Glenn Ford. Directed by Fritz Lang  
3.45 Film: The Pilgrim (1932, b/w). Sentimental Charlie Chaplin short in which he plays an escaped convict. To prevent himself from being re-captured, he changes his prison uniform for that of a minister and comes out good deeds. Directed by Charlie Chaplin  
4.30 A Hundred Acres. July Last programme in the re-edited series taking a look at wildlife throughout the changing climates of six consecutive months (r)  
5.00 Scottish Eye. Victims of the Village.  
8. CHOICE: A disturbing report on child abuse in rural Scotland reveals the difficulty for the victims of speaking out in small closed communities where everyone's business is everyone else's. Rather than bring shame on their families, women raped as young girls have grown up and suffered in silence. Several now speak out for the first time, although some are carefully hidden. One of them says "I don't want to go to prison and I kept my mouth shut to keep the family together." The problem is compounded by social deprivation — a quarter of rural households live below the poverty line — and physical isolation. To get help may mean calling a town 40 miles away. The film also points to the high incidence of abuse in religious families and voices criticism of a Scottish legal system which holds that incest is committed by both parties  
5.30 Knapdale. Continuing the off-beat look at the world of comics  
5.45 Ginn Tales. Rick Mayall narrates the story of The Gnomes  
5.50 Press Gang. Series following the trials and tribulations of a group of young people running the common ground between two Western forms of psychotherapy and Eastern meditative techniques  
6.30 The Wonder Years. Emmy award-winning comedy about what it was like to be an adolescent in the Sixties  
7.00 Channel 4 News and weather  
8.00 Orchestral. Dudley Moore and Georg Solti continue their introduction to the orchestra by taking a look at the piano  
8.30 The New Age. Key Area explores the common ground between Western forms of psychotherapy and Eastern meditative techniques  
9.00 The Movie Show examines issues raised by the media's coverage of the Gulf war



Like mother like daughter: Ricki Lake and Divine (9.45pm)

- 9.45 Film: Hairspray (1988). Cult director John Waters' first mainstream film is a splendidly nostalgic affair set in Sixties Baltimore. The late, great Divine makes his last cinematic appearance as the mother of an overweight teenage (Ricki Lake), who wins a place on a local television dance show and starts to gain some local fame. Waters playfully sends up the teen "make out" movies of the era, as well as the classic pictures of the Fifties and Sixties, through Lake's attempts to bring an end to racial discrimination at the television studio. Gloriously tacky, the film also benefits from the off-beat casting which includes Debbie Harry as the mother of Lake's rival and a surprisingly good Pat Zivara as a beatnik chick  
11.30 Hello, Do You Hear Us? Through the stories of three Soviet people, Latvian director Yana Podniece highlights the invisible wall of bureaucracy that threatens the success of perestroika  
12.35am Film: La Ronde (1965, b/w). Anon Walbrook, Simone Signoret and Serge Reggiani star in one of the cinema's most stylish and subtle films. In six episodes linked by a puppet master (Walbrook) tell the story of a sexual merry-go-round in 19th century Vienna in which one partner is always the connecting link to the next story. Directed by Max Ophüls. Ends at 2.15

## LIFESTYLE

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● SPORT 25-30  
● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 30-35  
● WEEKEND MONEY 36-40

# SPORT

## SUMMARY

### A Cup of memories



ONE footballer with particular memories of the FA Cup is Gary Stevens (above), who plays for Portsmouth. This afternoon against one of the two sides with whom he has finished a beaten finalist at Wembley, Stevens faces Tottenham Hotspur in a fifth-round tie at Fratton Park, eager to prove that a succession of injuries has not dulled the skills that took him to Mexico with England for the 1986 World Cup finals. Clive White finds that Stevens is very much at home with his teammates at Portsmouth. Page 27

### CRICKET

#### Late returns

TWO wickets shortly before the close gave England A reason for satisfaction after the first day of the second five-day match against Sri Lanka A yesterday. Richard Streeton reports from Colombo on England's gamble to play only four bowlers and their day of toil in the field as Kuruppa made an unbeaten 116 in a score of 205 for three. In New Zealand, John Crawley made a captain's 112 not out in leading England to a first-innings lead in the under-19 Test match. Page 30

### ATHLETICS

#### Cross hares



SARAH Rowell (above), Britain's former fastest marathon runner, attempts to win the women's national cross-country championship at Birkenhead today after a long period of injury. But, as David Powell reports, she faces strong opposition from Andrea Whitcombe. Page 28

### RUGBY LEAGUE

#### Form dictates

WHILE the eyes of the union code will be on Twickenham and Cardiff today, Great Britain meet France at Headingley in the 13-a-side version of rugby confident of victory after a convincing win in Perpignan earlier this season. Keith Macklin warns against complacency. Page 28

### RACING

#### Valued Coin



SIRRELL Griffiths (above) saddles Norton's Coin, his 100-1 Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, in the valuable Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Leopardstown today. Channel 4 will show five races (three live, two recorded) from the Dublin course. Windsor today expects to stage the first turf racing in Britain for a fortnight. Page 29

### GOLF

#### Ground swell

GREG Norman, advised by a British teacher to keep his feet on the ground, considered he had played his best nine holes for two years in taking the halfway lead in the Australian Masters yesterday. Mitchell Platt reports from Melbourne on Norman's attempt for a record of event wins. Page 27

## Calcutta Cup rests on the love-hate lineout

By DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

LOVE it or loathe it, the lineout is one of the two distinctive confrontational features of rugby union. It was there, many critics opined, that England lost their way against Scotland at Murrayfield in that climactic grand slam match 11 months ago; it is there they could stand or fall in their five nations championship match, and Calcutta Cup contest, against the Scots at Twickenham this afternoon.

The lineout has been variously described as a shambles, a mess, rugby's illegitimate baby. Yet when executed — and quickly, which is a key element — by as proficient a technician as Robert Norster, of Wales, it can be as uplifting as any aspect of play.

Nothing is more calculated to attract the public eye than photographs of players clearly suspended by the efforts of their colleagues, though, as in all things, it may be a question of interpretation. Was he lifted or is he merely being "supported" after the ball has been won?

The law prohibits the jumper using any other player as a support before the ball has been thrown in or before it has been touched by a player. According to my reading, however, there is nothing to stop one player supporting another after contact has been made with the ball.

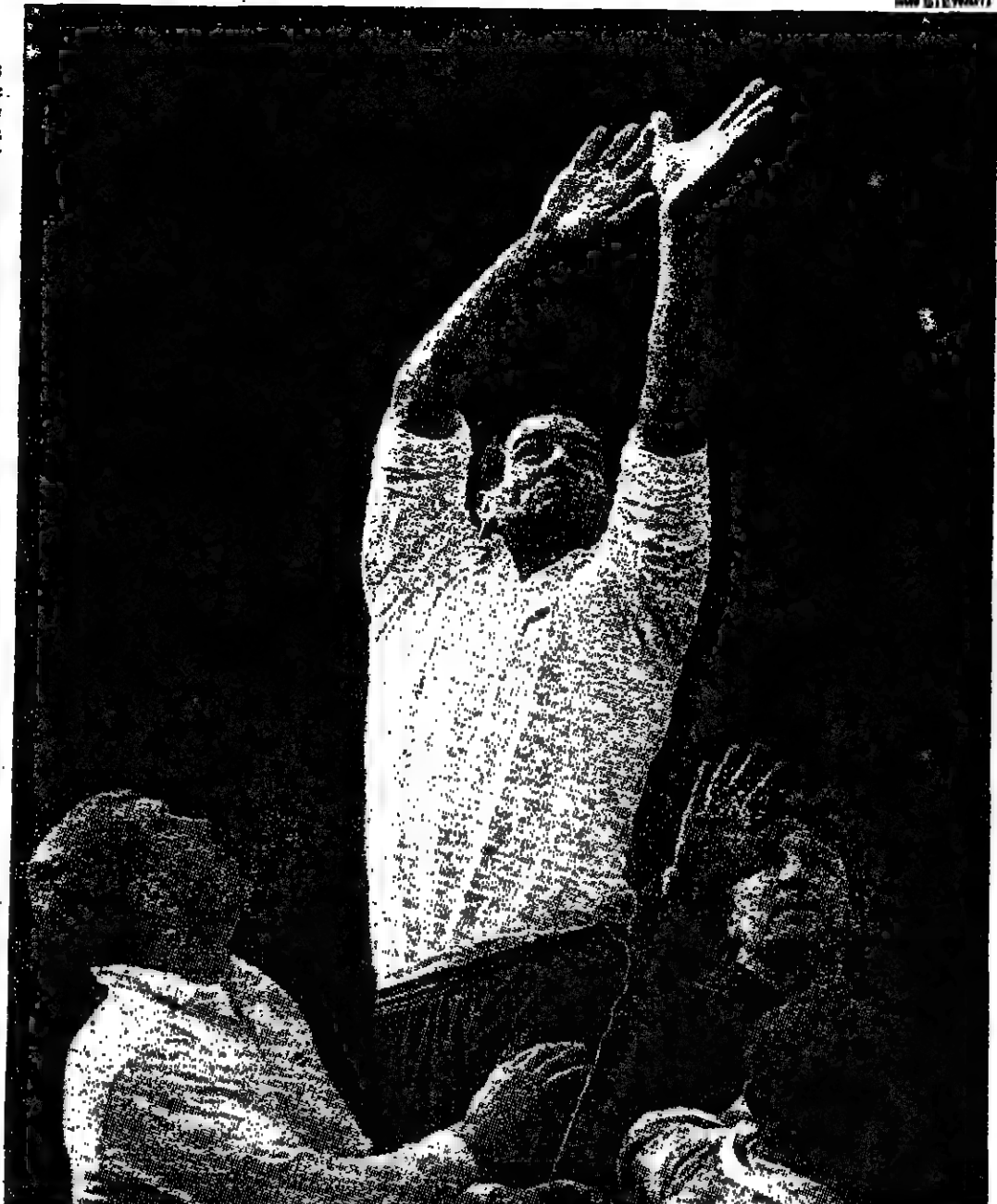
"A good lineout support player can keep you up at the top of your jump. Is that lifting or supporting?" Paul Ackford asks. As a policeman, he has a professional concern with the letter of the law.

Ackford, the Harlequins lock, who today makes his fourteenth England appearance, has no fond memory of last season's 13-7 defeat at Murrayfield: "We were too predictable in what we had planned," he said. "I remember going to the first lineout and Finlay (Caldar) came from the back to the front, stepped in and took a low, flat ball, one touch and it was away."

"They tried to take it away from the static lineout, which had worked so successfully for us before. They used the tail of the lineout effectively, through Jeffrey and White, and on our ball they were spoilers."

"Before that game, we had not had to work out counters to any of our opponents during the course of the match. I suppose you could say we were victims of our success. We should have had more variations. Now we are a year older and, I hope, wiser. It's an element of the game we have looked at."

The interesting feature of last season's game, however, was not Scotland's success at the lineout, which on overall figures was comparative. England still won the phase 19-11. It was the very



Hands up: Ackford, watched by Richard Hill, reaches for the sky during training yesterday

limited number of lineouts which took place in the first quarter of the game; the frequency with which Scotland had the throw; the variations they introduced on their own throw by using Calder and John Jeffrey at the front and Damian Cronin at the back; and the sheer uncertainty they induced among the English forwards.

Suddenly, a phase of the game which had been as solid as rock became as insecure as sand, and England did not think sufficiently quickly on the hoof. Where they had expected early possession, they found themselves limited. Though they achieved the anticipated domination by the second half, Scotland had the lead by that time and were prepared to defend all day.

It was in sharp contrast with Scotland's display at the lineout against Wales a fortnight ago. Overall, the Scottish advantage amounted to 17-11, but they established dominance early on so that Wales were always desperately trying to get into the game, notably at the lineout where the first half-dozen throws were all by Scotland. On their own throw, the Welsh jumpers performed tolerably well — but their opportunities were strictly limited.

Ackford understands why this should be. Having been coached by Ian McGeechan in 1989, when the British Lions were in Australia, he knows how minute the Scots' preparation is and he has a healthy respect both for their coach and players.

"They're a very potent force," he said. "Any forward who comes back from New Zealand with the volume of praise that Chris Gray did has to be good. They organise themselves well and I have the greatest respect for David Sole as an all-round forward."

"The Scots have come on since they were last at Twickenham. They have some genuine world-class players and the confidence of knowing they have performed well against us in recent matches. They're fit and well coached and well led. We will have our hands full."

Carlisle's challenge, page 26  
A game divided, page 26  
Desperate Wales, page 26

## Tottenham may have to try out the untried

By CLIVE WHITE

TOTTENHAM Hotspur, whose record in the FA Cup in recent years does not inspire great confidence, may be forced to throw an untried young forward into today's FA Cup fifth-round tie against Portsmouth at Fratton Park after Paul Walsh damaged an ankle in training yesterday.

Walsh stayed behind at White Hart Lane for treatment and a decision about whether he will join up with the squad today was left until this morning. If he is considered unfit, either Phil Gray, aged 22, or Scott Houghton, aged 19, will take his place alongside Gary Lineker. Paul Stewart is suspended.

"Both are very promising players and I have every confidence in them," Terry Venables, the Tottenham manager, said as he prepared for the worst. "I would not be afraid of having to ask them to play."

Gray, an Irishman, figured in the senior squad on a few occasions two seasons ago but has only recently resumed playing after a hernia operation kept him out for almost a year. This season he has been on loan to Fulham. Houghton, who can play either in a central position or wide on the right, is a regular reserve.

Gascoigne, who was substituted in England's game against Cameroon on Wednesday of last week because of a persistent groin injury, has been passed fit, unlike David Howells, who fears that he may need an operation to his knee.

"We are advised by a specialist that the rest and treatment Gascoigne has had since then will be beneficial," Venables said. "Obvi-

ously, we are hoping to avoid the need for an operation."

Gascoigne's convalescence and, just as importantly, that of Walsh could receive a welcome extension if the widespread thaw in the weather continues at a pace on the south coast. But the Fratton Park pitch was passed fit yesterday afternoon despite the surface water, which is threatening to turn matches into a lottery if they are played at all.

The Abbey Stadium pitch, where Cambridge United hope to play Sheffield Wednesday, was described yesterday as a "duck pond" down the middle by the stadium manager, which will do nothing for Sheffield Wednesday's low-gravity game. Cambridge, who tend to play from one penalty area to the next, were less concerned. "Not one for the purists," as Ron Atkinson, the manager of Wednesday and once of Cambridge, noted. Cambridge's new drainage system should ensure that the game goes ahead.

Notts County, who receive Manchester City, are also confident but the Upton Park pitch will need an inspection before West Ham United can take on Crewe Alexandra. The ties at Anfield and Elland Road are sure of going ahead.

If Arsenal are to win at the fourth time of asking against Leeds United they must do so without Perry Groves and Anders Limpar, who was outstanding in the first replay at Elland Road. George Graham, the Arsenal manager, however, said that Limpar's injury to his ankle ligaments was not as bad as many people had been speculating.

## Kingston incensed over Greek appeal

By NICHOLAS HARLING

ONE of the two victories gained by Kingston basketball club in the final pool of the European Cup might be annulled if Aris Salonika have their way. The Greeks are appealing to Fiba, the International Basketball Federation, to have the game, which they lost at Crystal Palace, replayed.

That game, nine days ago, ended with many unruly Greek spectators chasing Kingston supporters across the court, having earlier thrown coins at Kingston players and besieged the floor.

With those memories still in mind, the English club was incensed to learn that Aris are asking Fiba to have the game played again. They are alleging that Panagiotis Giannakis should have been allowed to stay on court after

fouling out as it was his fourth offence and not his fifth. Kingston do not dispute their claim.

"The point they are making is a valid one but we are appalled," Alan Kingston, a club director, said yesterday. "If there was any confusion among the officials, it was because of the awful behaviour of the Greek crowd."

"We are all very aggrieved because television also clearly shows that a shot from Alton Byrd should have counted as a three-pointer for us instead of a two-point basket. He was a good six inches outside the line."

Aris are third in the final pool table — four places ahead of Kingston, whose seventh defeat, by 91-72, came on Thursday in Panagiotis Giannakis should have been allowed to stay on court after

## A frank message which did not mean offence

MORE fun and frolics from Italian football: some you win, some you lose. Roma football club was in trouble for the behaviour of supporters after a match against AC Milan in Rome. Roma was fined £5,000 for the throwing of what was described as "a paper bomb", but it got away with a banner that carried the charming inscription: "Rijkaard, Rome vomits all over you."

Frank Rijkaard is a Dutch international who plays for Milan, and he is black. The banner was referring to a famously elegant spitting incident involving Rijkaard. The disciplinary committee decided the banner was "devoid of any racial or territorial connotation".

● A traditionally distasteful part of any rugby union match contested by the French is the introduction of live cockerels to the proceedings. The Irish are busy chasing various roosters imported for the Ireland-France match this afternoon, though this is being done on agricultural rather than humanitarian grounds. The birds, which could be carrying some avian virus, were smuggled into the country. Two have been caught, as I write, and will be killed. There is a third at large, which will also be killed once the agriculture department has got its hands on it.

### SIMON BARNES ON SATURDAY

eclipsed by Roger Clemens, who has completed negotiations that will earn him \$5.37 million annually over the next four years.

Clemens, the No. 1 pitcher in the game, plays for the Boston Red Sox, and becomes baseball's first \$5 million-man. Darryl Strawberry, easily the best name in baseball, moves into third place for the Los Angeles Dodgers with \$4.05 million.

Not every player makes money like this, as Pete Incavaglia, an outfielder with the Texas Rangers, said: "People think we make three and four million dollars a year. They don't realise that most of us only make \$300,000."

### Not patched up

Pete Rose, baseball legend, convicted tax-dodger and compulsive gambler, remains a love-object in the United States, despite baseball's refusal to let him into its Hall of Fame. Marco Lokar, an Italian college basketball player with Seton Hall, looks to be on the verge of being drummed out of the game for having an independent mind and a conscience.

The links between patriotism and sport in the United States are alarmingly close: it has become the custom in recent months for competitive athletes to wear a Stars and Stripes patch on the team uniform, in order to

show proper patriotism and appropriately warm sentiments about the boys in the Gulf.

Everybody else at Seton Hall opted to wear the patch, including an Israeli and a Russian. Lokar was not trying to make a big thing about it. "I have my reasons and that's it," was all he would say to reporters. He was booed every time he touched the ball when he played at Madison Square Garden on February 2. He has not taken part in a game since then, and he is now talking about leaving college and going back to Italy.

### Words roll out

He heard the news that Hereford had been elected to the Football League in place of Barrow on the radio around four o'clock. "I just couldn't speak to anyone or say anything. I went up and sat on my bed for I don't know how long. I just couldn't believe what had happened. Why Barrow?"

"My wife just shakes her head, but she has never discouraged me one bit. When I first met her, I said: 'I'm a Barrow football supporter.' She said: 'You're joking, aren't you?' Our courting was interrupted, one Saturday I was off to Barnet, and another to Bangor."

These are extracts from an interview with Terry Kendall, footballing person, mourning Barrow's fall from the League in 1972. It comes from a booklet about Barrow football club, entitled *In The Beginning There Was The End*, obtainable at £2.30 from Martin Wingfield, Worthing Typesetting, 9 King Edwards Avenue, Worthing, Sussex, BN14 8BD.

## Top coach dismisses drug claim

By DAVID POWELL  
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

JOE Douglas, the manager of the two fastest men in the world, jumped to the defence of Britain yesterday in response to allegations by Charlie Francis, Ben Johnson's coach, that athletics here has an inveterate drugs problem. "There is nobody in Britain I would accuse of being on drugs," Douglas said, making it clear he was talking only of the world within which he works: elite men's running.

In his new book, *Speed Trap*, Francis makes several references implicating British athletes. In an interview with *The Times*, he said: "If Britain wants to know what is going on, the way to find out is to grant an amnesty to the athletes and let them come forward to tell their story."

But Douglas, who manages Carl Lewis, the Olympic 100 metres champion, and Leroy Burrell, who set a 60 metres indoor world record on Wednesday, said that Britain fitted in with his assessment of the level of drug-taking worldwide in the sport.

"I do not think drugs are as widespread as people say they are," Douglas said. "Most of the athletes are clean. Linford Christie is clean and my athletes are clean. We know Charlie Francis is a drugs coach. Tom Tellez [who coaches Lewis and Burrell] is not a drugs coach."

Douglas said he drew his conclusions from his dealings with coaches and by studying the athletes' physiques looking for telltale signs. He would not put a figure on the Francis claim that more than 80 per cent of athletes were on drugs. "They say 60 per cent of the National Football League is clean and we are a lot better than that. But I am not selling a book."

Burrell's new aim, page 28

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### HIGH PERFORMANCE PENSIONS



# An IOC decision that should be challenged

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) this month scrapped plans to set up mobile drug-testing laboratories because of alleged possible legal complications. It appeared only five days after its director-general, Francois Carrard, himself a distinguished lawyer, passed over the opportunity to test its validity at the symposium on sport and the law organised by the International Amateur Athletic Federation's (IAAF) charitable arm, the International Athletic Foundation (IAF), in Monte Carlo, for an international gathering of sports lawyers and administrators.

It is a decision which should be challenged by every self-respecting sporting governing body concerned to eliminate cheating by drugs.

From a practising lawyer's standpoint, the reported reasons from Michele Verdier, the IOC's director of information, that "there might have been conflicts with national legal systems... and we could have faced lawsuits charging the freedom of the individual was being infringed."



## COMMENT

EDWARD GRAYSON

are both unrealistic and untenable. Correspondingly, it is arguable that the Home Office decision this week not to outlaw anabolic steroids under parliamentary legislation, notwithstanding overwhelming medical evidence to health hazards, is equally unrealistic and untenable.

These conclusions are confirmed from the layman's standpoint by an experienced administrator as Sir Arthur Gold, the chairman of the British Olympic Association (BOA), among his other international roles. It is also consistent with the broadside fired at Monte Carlo by Robert Armstrong, counsel to Mr Justice Dubin's Canadian commission of enquiry into the use of drugs and banned practices intended to

increase athletic performance. Armstrong explained at the IAF symposium that the IAAF must have regard to its own rules in exercising leadership, and in particular to Rule 57(1)(iii): "It is a condition of membership of the IAAF that a member includes within its constitution: a provision allowing the IAAF to conduct out-of-competition testing (including challenge testing) on that member's athletes."

He explained how he had been told that not one American athlete had yet submitted to the IAAF's out-of-competition testing programme, and concluded that if any of its members, including The Athletics Congress (TAC) in the United States, are not prepared

to accept the burden of Rule 57, then they ought not enjoy the benefits of international competition as a member of the IAAF.

This was one of the recommendations of the Dublin Commission which also recommended the IOC to refuse eligibility where the testing programmes of national sports organisations are not effective in detecting and deterring drug use in sport. That is why the IOC's reasons of alleged possible legal complications for abandoning mobile drug-testing laboratories are fatally flawed.

Sir Arthur has frequently tried in vain to persuade the IOC to extend its own eligibility Rule 26 (equivalent to the IAAF Rule 57) to include a willingness for each member country's athletes to undergo mandatory out-of-competition drug-testing procedure practices as a prerequisite to competing in the Olympic Games. His lack of success to date is comparable to the Football Association's failure until this season to persuade FIFA, the world governing body, to in-

troduce a mandatory sanction for the so-called professional foul.

Such a condition of IOC membership would provide potential participants with the voluntary option of competing under dope-testing rules, mobile, random or otherwise for eradication of cheating and protection of health as well as of sport; or, alternatively, equally voluntarily, of deciding to withdraw from competing under such eminently fair and reasonable conditions of entry into Olympic competitions.

There can be no question whatsoever of any "freedom of the individual... being infringed." The position is analogous to joining a club of which the rules are known in advance. Either they are acceptable to a candidate for entry, or they are not, with the inevitable consequence, voluntarily again, to keep out.

Illustrative of this voluntary element is the trivial agreement between Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom which

came into force on December 19, 1990. Their arrangement implements a programme of interaction between their respective countries for activating the international Olympic charter against doping in sport, which lacks Sir Arthur's initiative.

At Monte Carlo, Armstrong cited Sir Arthur's claim in the Dublin Commission report that "only the careless or ill-advised get caught" when tested at competitions; and he explained that when the IOC takes credit for its disqualification of Ben Johnson in Seoul, it is really damning itself with faint praise. For in the two-year period before September 1988, Johnson was tested 19 times at various competitions, always with a negative result; and the fact that he was tested positive at the Seoul Olympics was the result of panic and miscalculation by the Johnson entourage.

Last week Verdier admitted: "The concept of unannounced mobile drug-testing laboratories, or 'flying labs', crossing frontiers in the fight against doping in sport, was a great one; but in the

end, after lengthy examination by the medical commission and our lawyers, it was decided to drop the project."

Sir Arthur has long damned this evil in sport as destructive of it. Armstrong concluded his submissions to the Dublin Commission with a sports lawyer's approach: "Those athletes who attempt to beat the system by taking performance-enhancing drugs are victims of their own dishonesty. While they cheat others, they cheat themselves because they will never know how good they really can be. There are many other victims of drug abuse in sport but none is a greater victim than the athlete and the coach who have competed drug-free - who played the game by its rules."

The IOC should be advised to seek a second opinion, ideally from Robert Armstrong. QC. Furthermore, the Home Office must be advised to take a second opinion from the IOC medical committee.

Edward Grayson is a barrister and an authority on sport and the law

England today hope to settle a score and tilt the rugby balance in their favour while Ireland head hopefully to the Arms Park

## Carling ready to bring his side in from the brink

By DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

LEST anyone forget, England played a rugby match a month ago. Since that day in Cardiff there has been such a welter of peripheral activity that the playing of the game has been almost obscured; almost, but not quite, certainly not by Scotland, who parade at Twickenham this afternoon the grand slam they resolutely seized in last season's five nations' championship.

There will be no grand slam for the Scots this season - France have already seen to that - but the triple crown remains a tempting reward as both countries sustain their drive, in this international sponsored by Seve and Prosper, towards the World Cup in the autumn. On the face of it, too, Scotland have the greater playing advantage: two games in sequence (France and Wales) and preparations uninterrupted by the weather.

For a variety of reasons, however, a certain iron has entered the English soul. Twice they have lingered on the brink, in 1989 and 1990, and twice they have come away with nothing, their Hodgkinson-inspired victory over Wales last month suggested very firmly that "merely" game is not their concern - a winning game is. It is difficult, though, for an outsider to appreciate the strained attitude England took into that Welsh match. The breaking of the boggy has left the players more relaxed, even if that has not always been apparent from their public utterances: to that extent they may be prepared to play a higher-risk game than was offered in Cardiff.

But a flowing game is unlikely; these two countries seldom produce such a match unless one side has such a firm advantage, akin to that of 1980 when England's backs went to town. More often the Scottish spinner is thrown into the English works: "They have looked at our play and they have got the approach right," Geoff Cooke, the England team manager, admitted. "The Scots are very good on the 50-50 ball, they are very sharp around the field, their reactions are very good. We have to match that. I don't think the team believes it will win unless the players raise their game at least 25 per cent from the way they played in Cardiff."

Wall Carling, the captain, said the Murrayfield experience remained clear in the minds of his players; if it does not he has furnished them with press reports from last March as bed-time reading. A

### TODAY'S TEAMS AT TWICKENHAM

England	Scotland
S D Hodgkinson 15 Full back	A G Hastings 15
N J Hinkley 14 Right wing	A G Stanger 14
W O C Carling* 13 Right centre	S Hastings 13
J C Guscott 12 Left centre	S R F Linnam 12
R Underwood 11 Left wing	A Moore 11
C R Andrew 10 Stand off	C M Chalmers 10
R J Smith 9 Scrum half	G A Armstrong 9
J Laidlaw 8 Prop	D M E Soley 1
B C Moore 2 Hooker	K S Milne 2
J A Probyn 3 Prop	A P Burrell 3
M C Teague 6 Flanker	D J Turnbull 6
P J Ackford 4 Lock	C A Gray 4
W A Dooley 5 Lock	D F Cronin 4
P J Winterbottom 7 Flanker	J Jeffrey 7
D Richards 8 No 8	D S White 8

REPLACEMENTS: 16 J M Webb (Ireland), 17 S J Halliday (Ireland), 18 C D Morris (Ireland), 19 P A G Renshaw (Ireland), 20 C J Oliver (Ireland), 21 M G Sweeney (Ireland), 22 J A Hogg (Ireland), 23 J A Hogg (Ireland), 24 J A Hogg (Ireland), 25 J A Hogg (Ireland), 26 J A Hogg (Ireland), 27 J A Hogg (Ireland), 28 J A Hogg (Ireland), 29 J A Hogg (Ireland), 30 J A Hogg (Ireland), 31 J A Hogg (Ireland), 32 J A Hogg (Ireland), 33 J A Hogg (Ireland), 34 J A Hogg (Ireland), 35 J A Hogg (Ireland), 36 J A Hogg (Ireland), 37 J A Hogg (Ireland), 38 J A Hogg (Ireland), 39 J A Hogg (Ireland), 40 J A Hogg (Ireland), 41 J A Hogg (Ireland), 42 J A Hogg (Ireland), 43 J A Hogg (Ireland), 44 J A Hogg (Ireland), 45 J A Hogg (Ireland), 46 J A Hogg (Ireland), 47 J A Hogg (Ireland), 48 J A Hogg (Ireland), 49 J A Hogg (Ireland), 50 J A Hogg (Ireland), 51 J A Hogg (Ireland), 52 J A Hogg (Ireland), 53 J A Hogg (Ireland), 54 J A Hogg (Ireland), 55 J A Hogg (Ireland), 56 J A Hogg (Ireland), 57 J A Hogg (Ireland), 58 J 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Monthly performance figures show value of £100 based on offer to offer prices without income re-invested and ranking within their sector. Yearly figures are based on offer to bid prices with income re-invested. -- Unit trust was founded in the past year. †PEP scheme available. Source: Firststat.

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Fund

Bid price

Offer price

1 month

1 year

price

price

price

price

Hardwood Euro

197.2

198.3

197.9

29

73.0

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Hardwood Euro Int

150.7

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# Shares enjoy brief rally as oil price tumbles

By MARTIN BARROW and  
MICHAEL CLARK

OIL prices tumbled to a seven-month low in frantic trading as news broke of Iraq's conditional offer to leave Kuwait, providing markets with a indication of the likely reaction when fighting ceases in the Gulf.

The stock market also responded positively at first. In half an hour, share prices shrugged off earlier falls and were more than 20 points ahead as investors tried to absorb the news. But the gains proved short, with the Allies declaring their intention to carry on fighting and John Major, the prime minister, describing the Iraqi offer as a "bogus sham".

Most professional investors

quickly concluded that Saddam Hussein's word could not be taken as his bond, and started selling at the height of the rally.

Their tactics took much of the steam out of events, with the equity market reverting to trading levels that were seen before the news from Baghdad of the conditional offer.

North Sea Brent crude for April delivery, having traded at about \$18.30 a barrel on the International Petroleum Exchange, tumbled to \$16.30 on the announcement.

But cautious diplomatic reaction

steadied the market and oil prices recovered to \$17.34 a barrel, still showing a net loss of \$1.45. In New York, April crude was down \$1.24 at \$19.25.

The FT-SE 100 index started the day almost 12 points down but rose as investors and dealers alike tried to unwind any remaining positions before the weekend.

The index closed up 2.5 points at 2,296.9 — a rise on the week of 51.7 — helped by a firm start to trading on Wall Street.

The index has now risen 131.2 since the beginning of the month.

Dealers reported good two-way trading, despite the fluctuations during the day, and said there was little evidence of any willingness on the part of institutions to sell shares.

The fall in the annual rate of inflation to 9 per cent was in line with City expectations.

This week's cut in base rates was largely discounted by fund managers, but most are taking a longer-term view of prospects and expect

further reductions in the weeks ahead. Bonds were left nursing falls of almost £1 at the longer end after the government issued a further £500 million tranche of Treasury 10 per cent 2001.

Oil prices, which have traded within a range of \$18 to \$21 since the outbreak of the Gulf war, would have fallen to about \$15 if the peace had been a real one.

Traders believe that peace in the Gulf will herald a collapse in prices as western nations begin to reduce record levels of strategic oil stocks, accumulated to soften the impact of a potential interruption of the oil flow from Saudi Arabia.

With Opec output already exceeding pre-invasion levels and demand softening as the recession bites in

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Four directors resign from Parkfield Group

ROGER Felber and three other directors of Parkfield Group, the entertainment and engineering conglomerate that collapsed last July and which is now under administration, have resigned. Mr Felber was the leading personality behind Parkfield, which was the best performing share in the market at one time.

His resignation yesterday and that of Colin Davies, Anthony Capper and David Jones comes as no surprise. Last year, following a series of profit warnings by the company, it was announced that Parkfield had debts of £275 million. The shares were suspended at 45p, and on July 19 Cork Gully was appointed as administrator.

### Payout passed at Cranbrook Fairway tops a million

PRE-TAX losses at Cranbrook Electronic Holdings, the USM electronic components distributor, deepened to £696,000 (£489,000) in the year to end-September. Turnover grew to £8.36 million (£5.85 million). Earnings per share fell to 4.6p (3.81p). The loss per share stood at 6.61p (4.28p). There is no dividend. There was an exceptional loss of £208,000. The shares lost 1p to 10p.

FAIRWAY (London), the USM supplier of stationery, lifted pre-tax profits to £1.05 million (£756,000) in the year to end-December. Turnover grew to £8.36 million (£5.85 million). Earnings per share rose to 4.6p (3.81p). The final dividend is raised to 2p (1.75p) making a total of 3p (2.75p). Interest payments rose to £254,000 (£66,000).

### War hurts Vard

VARD, the London listed Norwegian shipping group, said profits fell from Nkr478 million (£42 million) to Nkr205 million in 1990 as a result of the Gulf war. Kloster Cruise, the luxury cruise line, contributed profits down from Nkr298 million to Nkr223 million.

A loss is likely during the first quarter of the current year although the company believes cost cutting will enable it to return to profit for the year as a whole. Finanshuset, which encompasses Vard's financial services and shipbroking activities, lost Nkr15 million (Nkr168 million profit) after extraordinary write-downs of Nkr120 million in respect of investment losses and lower ship values following the invasion of Kuwait.

### No referral on CGE-Talkland Elms bought by Halma

THE trade department has decided not to refer the proposed acquisition by France's Compagnie Générale des Eaux of a 51 per cent shareholding in Talkland International to the monopolies commission. CGE has bought the holding of Gamelstad, a Swedish finance firm, in Talkland, a British cellular radio service company.

### TC Coombs defaults

TC COOMBS, the London stockbroker suspended this month after a breach of capital adequacy requirements, has been declared a defaulter by the International Stock Exchange. The ISE said it took the action because the company was "unable to comply with its obligations". The Securities Association ordered the company to cease investment business on February 1. Patrick Mahon, the chairman, and Andrew Kent, corporate development manager, have been charged with conspiracy to defraud TSA. They have been released on bail of £500,000 each. Ernst & Young, the accountant, has been appointed administrative receiver to the company.

## Sterling firms in ERM after inflation boost

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE pound ended the week on a firm note, buoyed by the weaker mark, and encouraged by the latest British inflation figures which were seen as further justification for Wednesday's half-point base rate cut.

Fears that lower interest rates would weaken sterling dangerously appeared unfounded, with the currency closing at DM2.9060, up from DM2.9044 on Thursday. It had been above DM2.91 during the day.

Reports that Iraq might be

prepared to withdraw from Kuwait boosted the dollar for a time before Washington knocked down the news as delaying tactics by Baghdad.

At the London close, the pound was a cent lower against the stronger dollar at \$1.9715. But on its trade-weighted index, it ended steady at 94.4.

A wester of American economic indicators failed to change sentiment for the dollar significantly. The pound, meanwhile, showed a sufficiently firm time to climb off the bottom of the European exchange-rate mechanism, leaving the franc beneath it.

Before this week's base rate cut, it had been feared that a premature, politically-driven monetary easing would force sterling to test its ERM floor. Britain's retail price index for January showed an annual rise of 9.0 per cent, after 9.3 per cent in December. Though in line with forecasts, City economists saw it as evidence that inflationary pressures have been subdued and that the pressing need now was to lower interest rates.

Neil MacKinnon, chief economist at Yamaichi International, said the figures, marked by record low monthly price changes for household goods, clothing and footwear, confirmed that "inflation was in progress".

He expects the extended seasonal sales behind the price falls in certain categories of goods to continue this month and next. He sees annual inflation falling to 3.5 per cent by the end of the year.

With inflation in retreat and economic indicators increas-

ingly signalling deepening recession, Mr MacKinnon believes the government will be tempted to cut base rate again, possibly next week, when further evidence of deflation is expected to surface.

The money market was, however, more cautious about the possibility of a fresh cut in interest rates, and appeared to be still absorbing this week's rate move, after the Bank of England through its market operations flagged that it was content with base rate at its present 13.5 per cent.

Economic data published next week are expected to add to the gloom about the continued decline of the economy. Provisional retail sales on Monday are likely to largely reverse the surprise rise in December. City forecasts centre on a January fall of 1.2 per cent for an annual drop of nearly 1 per cent.

Gwyn Hache, UK economist at James Capel, said anecdotal evidence points to the deterioration in retail sales being "pretty serious".

Money supply and bank lending data on Wednesday are expected to show growth in M0, the narrow money measure, picking up to about 3 per cent in January from 2.7 per cent in December.

The Bank of England's weekly notes data meanwhile point to M0 decelerating again this month to about 2.5 per cent.

Output-based gross domestic product figures, also out Wednesday, will reveal the depth of the economic decline in the final quarter of last year. Forecasts focus on a fall of nearly 1 per cent.

### Stratagem extends hostile bid

STRATAGEM Group, the investment company that recently declared its all-share offer for Touchstone Group, the computer services company, partially unconditional, expects to contact Touchstone shareholders soon.

Stratagem's offer has been extended until March 1. It claims to have acceptances for 55.3 per cent of Touchstone ordinary shares.

### Maxwell sells

Robert Maxwell, the publisher, has sold a 10 per cent stake in ITI, the private French television network-Pergamon Media Trust sold the stake on February 4, when Goldman Sachs, the American investment bank, acquired a 10 per cent interest in the channel.

### Lee 'to fall'

Arthur Lee & Sons, the Sheffield steel and plastics group, said interim profits to March 31 would fall "well short" of the previous year's pre-tax interim profits of £2.7 million — 28 per cent below comparable figures to March 1989.

### Rothmans rise

Rothmans Inc, the Canadian subsidiary of Rothmans International, reports higher earnings for the nine months ended December 31. Net earnings were Can\$34.7 million (Can\$30.9 million).

### Chancery halted

Shares in Chancery, the banking and financial services group, were suspended at 36p pending an announcement. One year ago the shares were worth 160p.

### Allied take-up

Allied Insurance Brokers had a 48 per cent take-up from shareholders for its one-for-four open offer at 103p.

### Steel down

Steel production in Britain averaged 309,500 tonnes a week in January, down 11.3 per cent on a year ago.

## US trade deficit narrows to \$6bn

By OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

FALLING oil prices helped the American trade deficit to narrow by almost a third in December and pushed down wholesale price inflation to 0.1 per cent last month. Figures released yesterday also showed continuing declines in industrial production and capacity utilisation in January.

The Commerce Department said the December trade deficit was \$6.25 billion after \$8.91 billion in November, reflecting a drop in imports, helped by the lower dollar and smaller oil bill. The November deficit was revised down from \$9.70 billion, bringing the trade deficit for 1990 to just under \$101 billion, the lowest for seven years.

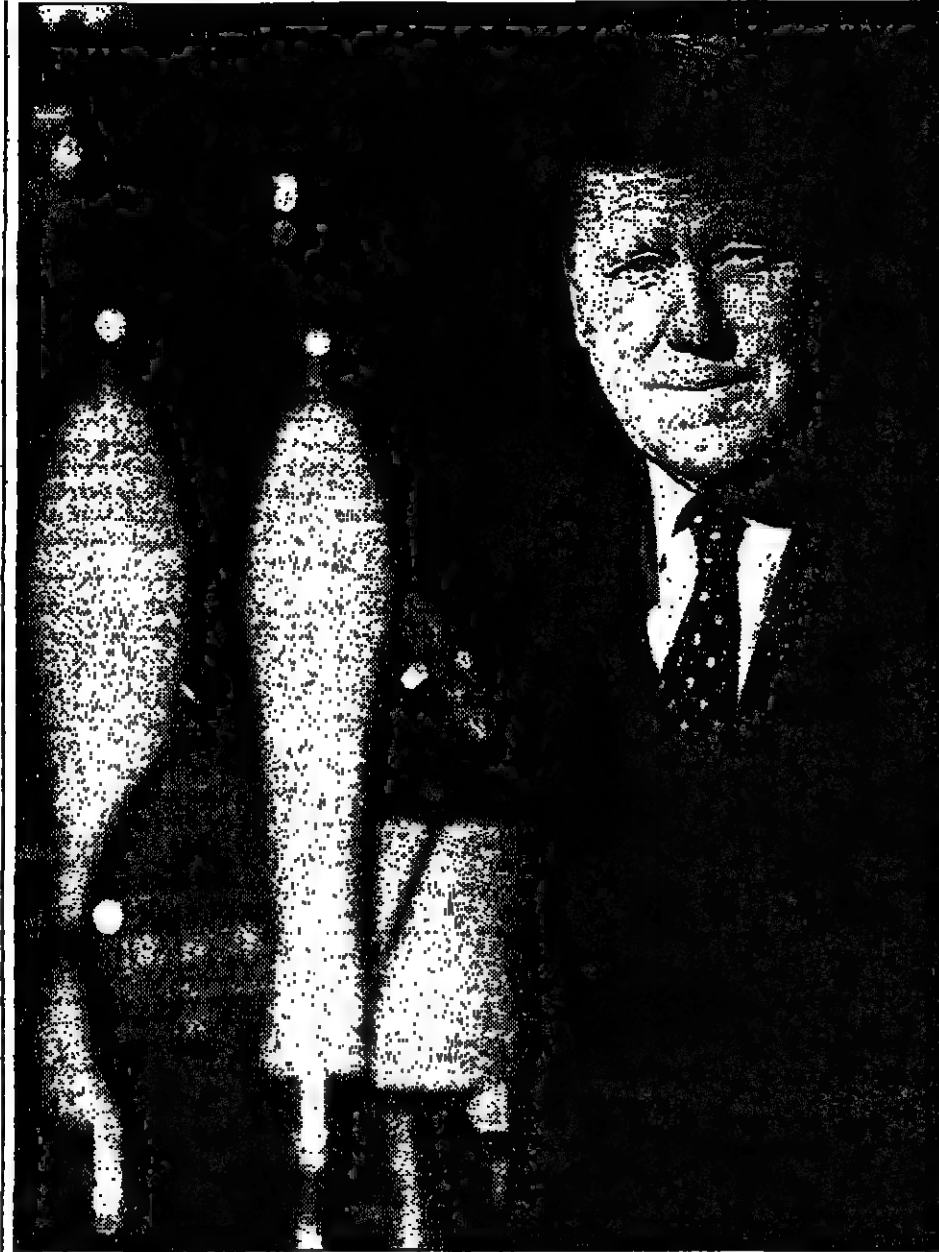
This compared with a shortfall of \$109.4 billion in 1989. Without the increase in oil prices last August, the annual deficit would have fallen to \$91.0 billion, Commerce department economists said.

The improvement in trade

surprised Wall Street analysts, who had expected the deficit to narrow only slightly from November. Oil imports, in volume terms, fell for the third consecutive month, while the value declined by more than \$1 billion to \$6.3 billion.

The producer price index fell for the second month in a row. In December, it fell 0.6 per cent. However, the so-called "core" inflation figure, excluding energy and food, jumped by 0.5 per cent in January, after a 0.2 per cent rise in December. This core rate, closely followed by bond investors, was considerably worse than the 0.2 per cent increase expected by Wall Street and provoked a small sell-off in the bond market.

Industrial output and capacity use both declined in January: industrial production fell 0.4 per cent and capacity utilisation fell to 79.9 per cent from 80.4 per cent.



Delighted with the sale: Sir Derrick Holden-Brown, chairman of Allied-Lyons

## Olympia & York sells stake in Allied-Lyons

By MATTHEW BOND

NEARLY \$1 million shares in Allied-Lyons, the food and drinks group, were placed with institutions after Barclays de Zoete Wedd paid Olympia & York almost £400 million for them.

The placing by BZW, Cusumove and Lehman Brothers, the brokers, came after Olympia & York, the Canadian property group, ended weeks of speculation by saying it had converted its preference shares in Allied into ordinary shares. O&Y, developer of the Canary Wharf project in London Docklands, had been free to do so since the beginning of this year. This had cast a cloud over Allied's share price performance.

The new ordinary shares — about 9.5 per cent of the enlarged equity — were placed with about 100 institutions

within half an hour of an announcement at 9.30am that O&Y had converted its preference stock. Institutions paid 497.5p a share, a 3 per cent discount to Thursday's closing price. Buoyant demand meant some applications were scaled down.

Allied-Lyons, where Sir Derrick Holden-Brown is chairman, was delighted the shares had been placed. Cliff Hatch, the finance director, said: "It must be good news for both the company and the other 91 per cent of our shareholders. Any potential overhang has now been removed."

Allied shares fell 11p to 502p on news of the placing. Dealers said the fall was very modest.

BZW was also pleased with the outcome of its biggest ever bought deal. Simon de Zoete,

deputy chairman of BZW Equities, said: "It was a satisfactory transaction, if a very complex transaction." Because the ordinary shares were not listed when BZW bought them, the price it paid does not need to be disclosed. As a result, BZW's "turn" on the deal cannot be calculated. The shares became listed in the afternoon.

O&Y's subsidiary GW Utilities acquired the preference shares in 1987 as part consideration for its Hiram Walker liquor division, which it sold to Allied for £1.2 billion. GW said the stake sale for £395.1 million left the company debt-free and with considerable cash reserves.

Paul Reichmann, Olympia & York president, said the disposal was part of a long-term plan.

## Haynes profit falls £1.1m

By PHILIP PANGALOS

SHARES in Haynes Publishing Group, the car and motorcycle manual publisher, fell 30p to 135p when the interim dividend was cut after first half pre-tax profits slid from £1.66 million to £494,000 in the six months to November.

The company blamed the fall on reduced British demand, which was affected by the recession and destocking, and the impact of the stronger

pound making exports to America less profitable.

John Haynes, the chairman, said: "Sales of our main products are back to 1986 levels. They are based on sales of cars — when car sales are down, our manuals fall."

Turnover climbed from £7.99 million to £9.56 million, with the increase due to the acquisition of Patrick Stephens and distribution of

books for an American publisher. Earnings per share plunged from 10.13p to 2.85p. The interim dividend has been cut from 4.5p to 1p.

Haynes plans to cut British costs which will result in redundancies for up to 10 per cent of the workforce. British trading profits fell to £179,000 from £1.21 million on turnover up from £5.43 million to £5.82 million.

## Business chiefs dismiss Kuwait contract fears

By ROSS TIEMAN

INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT



Lord Prior: headed talks

FEARS that British companies will miss out on contracts for the \$100 billion reconstruction of Kuwait have been dismissed by business leaders after a Gulf visit.

Lord Prior, chairman of the General Electric Company, who headed talks between two industrialists and the Sheikh Saad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti prime minister and crown prince, said: "From all that I have heard, I don't think these fears are justified."

Lord Prior said most of the initial work of making buildings safe and removing mines and booby traps would fall to the Americans. A \$46.3 million contract for preliminary emergency work has been placed with the United States Army Corps of

Engineers. Bechtel, the American construction group, has been contracted to make oil and gas installations work again.

Jim Langford, a director of Costain, the construction group, and president of the Export Group for the Construction Industry, accompanied Lord Prior and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, at the talks.

He said the Kuwaitis were likely to spend billions of dollars in the first year after Iraq's withdrawal on the restoration of basic services such as water, sewers, power, telecommunications and hospital equipment. Thereafter, a reconstruction programme lasting a decade or more was likely to develop.

"Kuwait acknowledges the help that Britain has given, both in 1961 and again now," said Mr Langford.

"They would like to work with us. For the past five or ten years, British contractors have found it difficult to win work in Kuwait on sensible contract conditions. I would hope that this will prove an opportunity for British companies to re-establish themselves in Kuwait. We have the expertise." He said there was also likely to be construction work upgrading defences in Saudi Arabia.

The trade department has been criticised for failing to promote British interests, but the department insists it has been developing plans for British involvement in reconstruction since November. After last weekend's visit, the DTI is to establish an office staffed by industry representatives at Dammam, Saudi Arabia, where the Kuwaiti taskforce charged with reconstruction is based.

Christopher Wilton, the commercial counsellor at the British embassy in Riyadh, is moving to Dammam to head the operation.

Gulf contracts are unlikely to lead to a repeat of the mass migration of British workers to the Gulf seen in the Seventies. For political and economic reasons, Gulf states will find it more attractive to recruit as much labour as possible from Arab states. However, many British construction groups and manufacturers of heavy equipment for power generation and industrial processing are under pressure from recession in their home market.

Orders from Gulf states will be welcome, but a fall in the oil price, which is expected to accompany the end of hostilities, may do as much to rekindle economic growth in Britain and America.

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## INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

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mean an initial investment of  
£5 to use as working capital.  
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easily be deposited each week  
by the simple expedient of  
withdrawing £4.50, adding  
one's 50 pence, and immedi-  
ately depositing the requisite  
minimum of £5. If enough of  
us do it, hopefully the Post  
Office will realise the lunacy of  
this ruling.

Yours hopefully,  
A. ANGAS,  
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East Pennard,  
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Somerset.

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term investor And, in return for giving	£10,000-24,999	13.75%	10.31%	In fact, we have all sorts of savings
notice, you'll receive a very high interest	£25,000-49,999	13.10%	9.92%	accounts for all sorts of savers. For more

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tax-exempt and is currently 2.5% (or payable gross subject to the required certification). If the account is closed prior to 6 April 1991 then interest will be payable at the net rate of 10.95% at tier £25,000+, 10.72% at tier £10,000-£24,999, 10.21% at tier £2,000-£9,999 and 6.24% at tier £1-£1,999, the basic rate tax liability on which will be discharged and which may not be reclaimed.



15115



This week's arrears figures, the result of continuing high interest rates, a prolonged slump in the housing market and a looming recession, present the first real opportunity to judge just how robust the radically reshaped mortgage lending industry is in the aftermath of deregulation. The tough market conditions have stressed the industry more than ever before and what emerges is a gloomy picture indeed. It has to be said that the industry does not appear to have done particularly well.

Arrears and repossessions are at record levels — not a good position in a stagnant housing market. Lenders are drastically restricting the type of lending they will do and many are pulling out of the market altogether. All in all not what one might expect of an industry with a long-term view of its market and a clear idea of what it is about.

I hasten to add that the situation is not because deregulation has failed. It is, largely, the failure of the industry to respond to the new market. Many of the established lenders have not appreciated the real implications

of their new-found powers and some of the new players have given insufficient thought to the implications and requirements of a long-term commitment to mortgage lending.

The problem arises from a predominantly short-term view of the market. Over the past two years many lenders have been too busy fighting for their market share to worry too much about how they were going to manage the assets once they had them.

To be fair, they had some help from the government. The housing market was artificially boosted in 1988 by exceptionally low interest rates and the then Chancellor's decision to give three months' notice of the end of dual mortgage interest tax relief. This was akin to throwing petrol on a blaze.

The resulting surge in demand boosted prices rapidly and houses no longer became somewhere to live but, for some at least, something to be traded. In

## Bad loans come home to roost



COMMENT

DUNCAN YOUNG

this environment lenders fought still harder for a share of what looked more like a gravy train than a roller coaster. In so doing they did not always lend on the most prudent terms.

There was an alarming relaxation in underwriting criteria. Lenders could be found offering loans at four or five times income, valuations were not checked as carefully as they might have been, and loans were provided to almost anyone who cared to ask.

This was justified — if not at the time, then certainly with hindsight — by the belief that house prices could not and would not go down. Even if loans went

wrong the lender would be more than adequately covered by the inevitable increase in property values. This simple article of faith enabled the blind pursuit of market share unfettered by thought of prudence, margin or plain common sense.

By mid-1989, in the face of rising inflation, interest rates started to increase rapidly. The housing market had built up such a head of steam by this time and lenders were so keen to maintain market share at any cost that it was some months before the full effects of the interest rate rises began to be felt in the housing market. For some lenders the real implications of their blind faith

are only now becoming apparent. These problems have been compounded by the industry's activities in 1990. Faced with an inactive housing market, lenders, and others who make their living from the mortgage market, felt the need to continue to write business. The market shifted towards remortgages. Incentives were provided, legal fees paid and underwriting criteria cut further.

Undoubtedly, many reliable borrowers decided to remortgage on sensible terms, but all too often the new loan was an arrangement to lend more money to a borrower who was already having difficulty paying his existing mortgage. The misery and the problems that will grow from much of this lending have probably yet to emerge.

All in all, the past two years have been a salutary lesson in how quickly the housing market can turn. Those lenders who have been around for more than a

century ought, perhaps, to have known better, and I hope that those new to the market will learn their lesson well. But it will be painful. Both sorts of lender have suffered as house prices have fallen and those who lent carelessly, and lent a lot, will have suffered the most.

I guess that this is the way that markets are intended to work. A combination of consumer demand and commercial reality will result in prudent, well managed companies surviving while weaker ones decline or withdraw from the market. In a market that changes as rapidly as this, complacent organisations will go out of business.

The long term outlook for the mortgage market is undoubtedly good, but it will be only those lenders who really understand what they are doing, and can make a profit whilst servicing the needs of customers, that will survive. I am not yet convinced the lesson has been learned but I am certain that the pain yet to come will ensure that it is.

Duncan Young is managing director of the Household Mortgage Corporation.

MORTGAGE lenders may face a reduction in demand for fixed rate mortgages after this week's half point cut in base rates (Liz Dolan writes).

Fixed rate offers are unlikely to be withdrawn, but according to the Halifax Building Society "more people may now decide on a variable rate mortgage, or wait and see what's going to happen before plunging for a fixed rate".

The Halifax has a fixed-rate mortgage of 12.75 per cent

## Mortgage rates on hold

until July 31, 1993. However, Mortgage Express is confident of a healthy demand for its new scheme, which pegs the rate at 12.75 per cent for two years until April 2, 1993.

"Business was not really affected by the 1 per cent cut last autumn," said a spokesman. "And we've had a good response in the first three days for the new one. But we are

constantly reviewing the situation and, if demand dries up, we'll review the terms of our offer."

Abbey National says it intends to continue marketing for the time being its new mortgage to be launched on Monday, fixed at 12.25 per cent until June 30, 1994. TSB also has no plans to withdraw its new 12.5 per cent endow-

ment mortgage offer, fixed until the end of April 1993.

Lenders are most likely to change their minds when there is a cut in the actual mortgage rate, an event unlikely to occur until April according to most observers.

When a mortgage rate cut is announced, fixed rate offers tend to be withdrawn immediately, to be replaced

by new schemes with lower interest rates or shorter time spans, the Halifax said.

Fixed mortgages react to trends, rather than the actual mortgage rate. Their popularity started at the end of 1988, when rates were still low. With that trend now reversed, mortgage lenders will have to start thinking of other ways to tempt buyers back into the market.

Mortgage rate cuts, Repossession figures, page 34

## Helplines snowed under

By MARGARET DIBBEN

INSURANCE company helplines this week have been a boon for many home owners with burst pipes. The 24-hour telephone services can put policyholders in touch with a local plumber and ensure they are not overcharged for emergency work.

All the large insurance companies and many of the direct insurers now have helplines. General Accident runs its own scheme from its head office in Perth, Tayside, while the others use a central service, the main two of which are run by Hambro Legal Protection and Europ Assistance.

Hambro operates a scheme for, among others, Guardian Royal Exchange, Royal London, Norwich Union, Legal & General and Top UK. Europ Assistance acts for Eagle Star, Commercial Union, Prudential and Cornhill, as well as American Express and several other credit card companies.

In the first few days of the freeze, the helplines saw a moderately increased workload. But as the thaw set in and frozen pipes began to leak, they were inundated by calls from desperate home owners needing plumbers and builders.

Europ Assistance has just installed a telephone system that tells callers how long they are held in a queue. Hambro does not expect any delays in answering.

The helplines have their own panels of thousands of workmen, and are able to keep an effective control on pricing.

Costs vary enormously around the country. John Poston, operations manager with Hambro, said: "The average charge in towns for an

out of hours call for a plumber is about £20 to £25 an hour. If he wanted to charge £30 or much above that, I don't think we would be too interested in them."

A spokesman for General Accident said: "The workmen are not endorsed by the company nor is their work guaranteed, but if they are unsatisfactory they are taken off our register."

The insurance company provides the telephone number and the customer then arranges a visit. A day or so later, the company will telephone the policyholder to check on how satisfied they were with the plumber. Using a contractor on the insurance company's register does not automatically mean that the cost will be met by the insurer, although companies will give

guidance beforehand on the likelihood of a claim succeeding.

Helplines are not only for emergency calls. Policyholders can phone with a wide range of home-related queries.

Malcolm Bettridge, marketing manager at GRE, said: "The helpline can help out on anything from the current emergencies to just finding an electrician to put a plug on a new washing machine."

To avoid problems in the first place, Commercial Union advises:

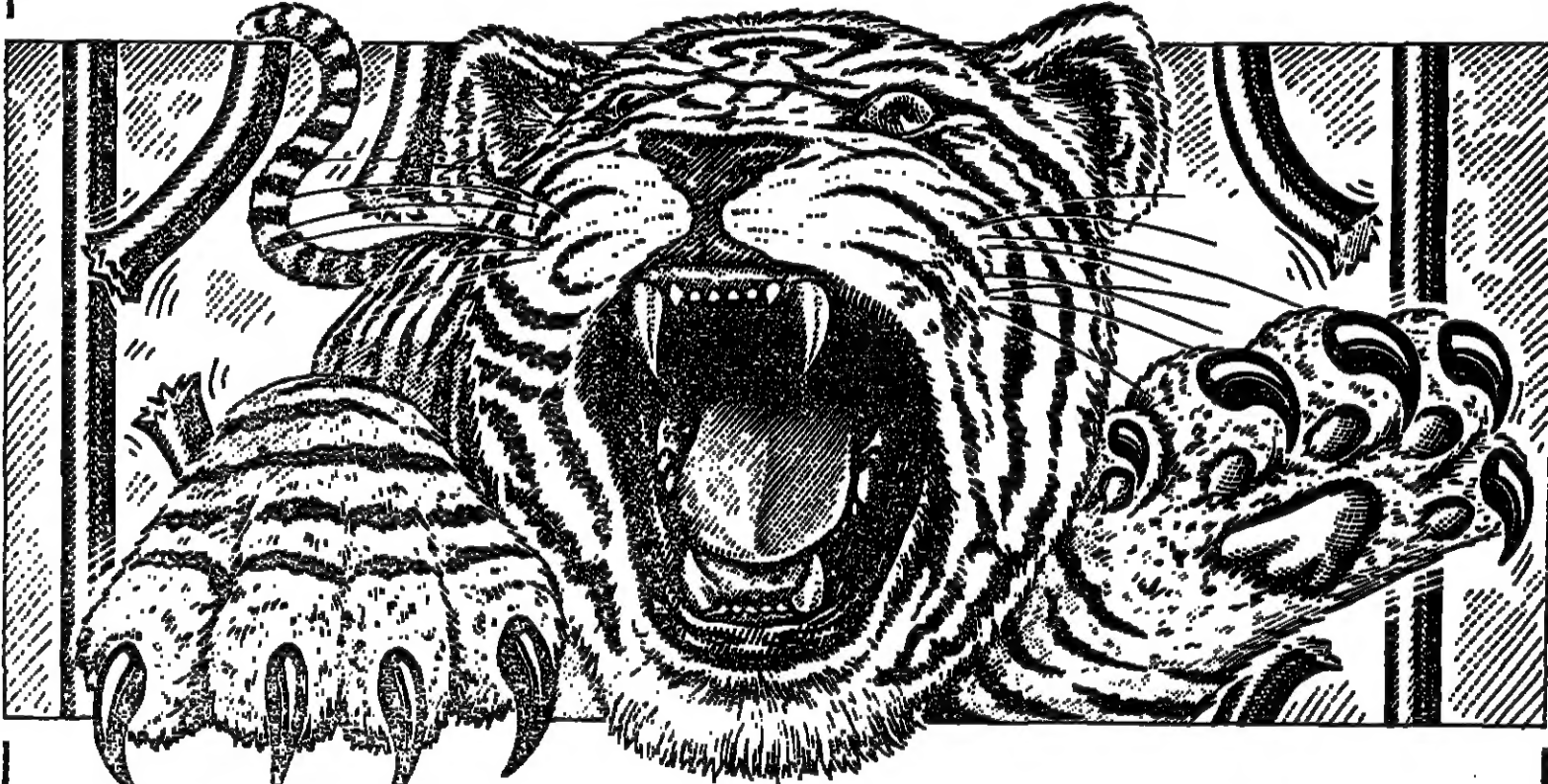
- If fitted carpets become soaked, do not take them up because they will shrink.
- If other carpets are flooded, do not fold them.
- If water is dripping through an electric light, turn off the mains.
- Find out now where the stopcock is.



Deep freeze: home owners faced extra problems

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\*Source: MIM Capital. Figures to 1.1.91. Offer by Ltd not income reinvested.



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## Portfolio PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of The Times this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 52).

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50

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SUMMARY

Saatchi  
chief  
settles

THE chief executive of Saatchi & Saatchi, the advertising agency, has agreed to pay \$213,750 to settle an action brought by the American Securities and Exchange Commission under insider dealing laws.

Robert Louis-Dreyfus, who was barely known in the advertising industry at the time of his appointment 15 months ago, agreed to settle SEC charges without admitting or denying wrongdoing.

Saatchi is currently hoping to win the support of the London and New York financial communities for a restructuring. Page 32

Shy leader



Jim Butler has overcome painful shyness to rise to the chairmanship of KPMG, the biggest accountancy practice in the world and the largest professional firm with annual fee income of \$5.4 billion. He talks to Carol Leonard. Page 39

EC mergers

European Community merger investigations should become more independent, says the Mergers and Monopolies Commission in its annual report. Page 32

Pound firmer

The pound was encouraged by the latest inflation figures and a weaker mark. But dealers said the money market was not yet discounting a further cut in interest rates. Reports from Kuwait boosted the dollar for a time before Washington dismissed the news as a delaying tactic. Page 33

Loan rate eases

Mortgage rates are starting to fall, although most of the big building societies are waiting for another half-point cut. This will not help record numbers of people facing arrears or repossession. Page 36

Your letters



Building societies started a Warwickshire reader's sons off on a lifetime of prudent saving. One now handles millions of pounds as a stockbroker. Page 37

Home help

Insurance company helplines have been helping people cope with the thaw by putting them in contact with plumbers who will mend their burst pipes at a reasonable price. Page 38

THE SUNDAY TIMES

TV battle

"Suddenly he hears a scuffle of feet and sees a man running down the street towards him. He can just make out the envelope in his hand. His heart sinks. It is another bid for the London weekend licence and the man making it is..."

The TV franchise battle - The Sunday Times tomorrow.

Confusion feared over two-tier pricing

Credit card customers face charge on goods allowing retailers to pass on fees. Lindsay Cook reports

FROM March 7, hundreds of thousands of traders will be able to charge credit card customers more than those who pay by cheque, cash or debit card. The Credit Card (Price Discrimination) Order is intended to allow retailers who accept cards to reclaim the fee charged by the credit card companies from the card customers.

Banks and consumer organisations fear the move will lead to confusion at tills and to customers being overcharged.

The change was recommended by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in 1989. The legality of such surcharges was challenged through the courts by the credit card companies, so delaying implementation. Last week, the regulations on how retailers should operate differential pricing were laid before Parliament.

The service fee paid to the credit card companies is, on average, 1.65 per cent of the sale price, with smaller shops and restaurants paying up to 4 per cent. Charge card fees can be higher. Traders will be able to charge more to recover these fees from credit card customers.

Retailers who decide to introduce differential pricing will be able to choose which price they display on goods. They will be able to put the cash price on items and display signs at all entrances and at each till stating how much more credit card customers will be charged. Alternatively, they could display the credit card price and put up notices saying that cash customers will be charged less.

A trade department spokeswoman said it would also be possible for shops to charge one price for cash, another for Visa cards, a different price for Access cards, and another price for American Express and Diners Club cards.

Credit card companies can remember the rush by petrol filling stations to surcharge credit card customers after a similar recommendation by the MMC in 1980. At that time, the average retailer fee was 2.5 per cent, with petrol companies paying far less, but filling stations charged up to 5 per cent more to credit card users. The trade department put an end to dual pricing the following year.

While credit card issuers and customers will be discouraged by a two-price system, cash customers, who still outnumber credit card users, are being advised to ask for discounts for cash. A National Consumer Council spokesman said that if a retailer who accepts credit and charge cards does not display a sign stating that it is operating dual pricing, cash customers should ask for a discount equal to the service fee.

Jean Eaglesham, a senior researcher at the Consumers'

Association, said: "One of the things we are concerned about is the massive potential for confusion. Shoppers will have to make sure they know what they are going to pay, particularly if they are using a multi-function card. These cards can be used to guarantee cheques, or as debit cards or credit cards. With differential pricing, it will be possible for retailers to charge more when such cards are used as credit cards than for their other functions."

Issuers of debit cards are also concerned that customers using them should not be surcharged. At the end of this month a new Visa design for debit cards will be launched. These cards will be called Delta cards and will carry the word debit for the first time. However, it will take up to three years for all debit card users to get the new cards because they will be issued only when current ones expire. Lloyds Bank also plans to change the look of its payment card, which currently bears the words Lloyds Bank and Visa. The new cards will be issued from April.

The bank will also write to all the retailers it has signed up for its credit card and debit card before March 7, pointing out how they work. A spokeswoman said: "We reserve the right to terminate the agreements with those retailers who overcharge our customers."

Ian Lindsey, director of banking at Save & Prosper, expects dual pricing to be used where competition is limited, such as motor-

'It will be the smaller, less reputable stores who see differential pricing as a way of increasing revenue at the customer's expense'

way services or rural areas where customers have only one electrical retailer for 20 miles. "I am sure the major petrol companies will, at some time, introduce differential pricing. It will be easiest to introduce on motorways where buying petrol is a distress purchase. The Office of Fair Trading might do well to watch areas where it comes in first as it will indicate a lack of competition."

Mr Lindsey said he would refuse to pay a credit card surcharge. He would insist on paying by cheque and this would mean that for larger items the payment would not be guaranteed. He said that banks did not benefit from the guaranteed payment with credit cards, but retailers did.



Cash or credit: a customer offers a choice of money or a card to pay for a suit, but from next month, using plastic could cost more

They received an instant and guaranteed payment. If customers were to be surcharged, they would, in effect, be paying for that guarantee.

"It is going to be a difficult and unpredictable time. The big stores won't try it on. It will be the smaller, less reputable ones who see differential pricing as a way of increasing revenue at the expense of the customers," he said.

Mr Lindsey added that the freedom to charge more for credit card customers would make a nonsense of the interest rate calculations as the extra charge for credit card customers would not be included in the annual percentage rate for credit. Miss Eaglesham said the Consumers' Association had wanted signs at shop entrances and tills, using two or more prices to give an example of what the extra percentage would mean per £10 spent.

The Retail Consortium plans to issue guidance notes to retailers before March 7 on how to operate dual pricing legally. A first draft has been sent to banks, consumer organisations and the Office of Fair Trading for consultation.

Michael Wilsey, assistant director at the Retail Consortium, said: "It is an exposition to help the retailer decide whether it will be worth their while to charge different prices and telling them how to set about it. They need to know

the pros and cons of surcharging or discounting and to know the pitfalls. Many don't know whether what they are proposing to do is lawful or otherwise."

A spokesman for Barclaycard, which has more than nine million customers, said it would be difficult to stop retailers charging more than the merchant service charge levied by card companies.

Barclaycard had asked the trade department to amend the regulations at the draft stage, so that retailers would be restricted legally to charging credit and charge card customers no more than the service fee. It also wanted the maximum price for all goods to be displayed clearly.

Instead, the department put the onus on the credit card companies. The Credit Card Order allows the credit card companies to rewrite all their contracts with retailers, which could restrict them to charging no more than the additional merchant fee. However, there is no legal sanction for retailers who charge credit card customers more.

The Barclaycard spokesman said: "It will be very difficult to police 350,000 outlets, particularly as there will be no legal way of reinforcing it."

On the road to cash bonuses in America

From PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

MOTORISTS in California have faced two-tier prices for their petrol for years. Drivers wanting to pay with a credit card are charged about 9 per cent more than those offering cash.

BP and some Chevron stations are among those charging less for cash, said the Californian Service Station Association. At some garages, a different price is also charged for motorists serving themselves with petrol compared with those who want full service.

Regene Mitchell, president of the Consumer Federation of California, which has 15,000 members, said: "I've seen a difference in the price between self service and full service as high as 70 cents (60 per cent). But that's because some of the garages have only one attendant, who is caged inside with the cash and they want to discourage anyone from calling him out of that booth."

Garages typically show their cheapest cash price per gallon

outside the forecourt. In southern California, petrol costs about \$1.13 a gallon for basic unleaded petrol, but \$1.20 on a credit card. Dr Mitchell said: "There are some garages which say they don't have any difference, but then they get you both ways, because they usually take the difference between \$1.13 and \$1.20, and charge everyone \$1.18. We would like to see a discount for those who pay cash because cash customers are subsidising credit card holders."

However, a spokesman for Visa International in San Francisco said garages operating dual pricing in America gave discounts for cash, while those paying with credit cards paid the official rate. He added that it was against Visa regulations to surcharge for using a credit card.

Credit card customers are being charged an interest rate of between 24 and 29 per cent. Last year, the consumer lobby lost the battle to cap rates at 19.01 per cent.

Dark side to direct debit

By SARA MCCONNELL

ARRANGING to pay regular bills by credit card turned out to be more of a problem than a convenience for Colin Campbell, a solicitor, when he moved from London to Suffolk at the end of 1989.

Mr Campbell's electricity bills were paid automatically by direct debit out of his National Westminster Bank Access account. When he moved he did not see the need to cancel the debit because he had moved out of the London Electricity area and assumed he would not incur any more bills.

But nine months after moving to Suffolk his Access account was debited with £83.03, which had been taken from his account by London Electricity to pay for power he had never used.

When Mr Campbell wrote to Access asking how this had happened, the card services department replied: "Although I note from your correspondence that you moved from London, and therefore have subsequently been paying your electricity bills in Suffolk, at the time of moving you should have contacted the retailer direct cancelling your authority."

"Therefore in the circumstances as we were provided with a signed authority from the retailer authorising them to debit your Access account and as this was not cancelled by yourself, we cannot assist further in this matter."

Mr Campbell wrote back: "I do not see why it should be my job to pursue the matter with the retailer. If the charge is correct then I will pay it but I cannot understand how electricity charges should arise nine months after I left the property in question."

He added that he had deducted the amount of the electricity charge and interest from his Access payment.

Three months later, in December, Access told Mr Campbell that if he did not pay the outstanding balance of the account within 14 days it would withdraw all benefits on his card. His name would



Dispute: Colin Campbell found Access an inflexible friend

also be registered with credit reference agencies as a defaulter if he did not pay within 28 days.

Mr Campbell has refused to take up Access's offer to accept minimum monthly payments of at least 5 per cent of the outstanding balance on his account every month.

"My grouse is that Access should have investigated why I suddenly got an electricity bill. If they took me to court they would have to show that I used the electricity," he said.

But a spokesman for NatWest said the bank had acted correctly. If a customer pays regular bills by credit card, the customer gives the supplier (in this case London

Electricity) authority to take the money out of the account. Banks call this a continuous authorised transaction.

"Mr Campbell's argument is with London Electricity not us. He has entered an agreement with the company."

Access says it is unable to approach any supplier on a customer's behalf and is not responsible for the supplier taking money out of the account.

This is not the case with direct debits set up on current accounts. The bank will take responsibility and pay back the customer immediately if it wrongly takes money out of the customer's current account.

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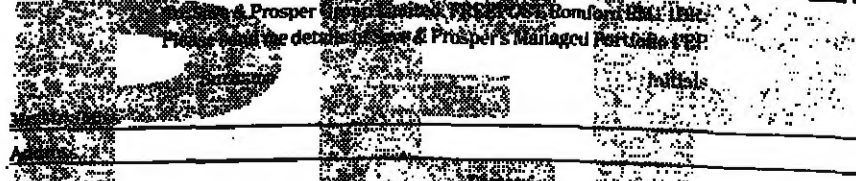
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